

Qatar reports 1 wounded by Saudi patrol

DOHA (AP) — A Saudi Arabian patrol fired at Qatari citizens in a border incident earlier this year and one Qatari was wounded, Qatar said Wednesday. It said it delayed announcing the incident until now while it sought an explanation from Saudi authorities, but none was received. It was one of several "armed incidents" at the border from March until October this year, Qatar's Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani told his cabinet colleagues at Wednesday's regular meeting, the official Qatar News Agency reported. The report indicated the border agreement reached by the two countries in December 1992 after intensive mediation was not holding. That agreement came after a shootout in September of that year in which two people were killed. The two sides disagreed about the nationality of the victims. The dispute is one of several that riddle relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. Qatar also is locked in a dispute with Bahrain over territorial waters. Qatar took that dispute to the International Court in the Hague.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

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Gaza clashes claim 1 more boy

GAZA CITY (AP) — A 14-year-old boy shot by Palestinian police dispersing rioting Muslim worshippers earlier this month died of his wounds Wednesday, hospital officials said. The death of Alaa Halabi from Gaza's Beach refugee camp brought to 15 the number of Palestinians killed in the Nov. 18 clashes between police and worshippers. More than 200 were wounded.

Lebanon gives Palestinians ultimatum

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government is to tell Palestinians in refugee camps in the country to hand over all their weapons or see the Lebanese army enter the camps, a senior government official said on Wednesday. He told reporters the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday night following fighting last week between Palestinian factions in 'Ain Al Hilweh camp near the southern port of Sidon.

Rafsanjani denies OIC boycott report

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has denied a report he would boycott an Islamic summit in December because it is to be in Morocco which now has low-level ties with Israel. Iran's official news agency said. IRNA news agency said a statement issued by Mr. Rafsanjani's office on Tuesday denied the report and said: "No decision has been made in this connection."

Rabbani team in Iran for talks

TEHRAN (AFP) — An eight-strong delegation representing Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived here early Wednesday to attend peace talks with rival factions, an Afghan official said. Mohammad Nateghi, a representative of the Shiite Muslim group Hezb-e-Wahdat, said a five-member delegation representing Mr. Rabbani's rival Abdul Rashid Dostam, a former communist regime general, was also on its way to Iran for the talks sponsored by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Fateh man gets nine life terms

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — A military court on Wednesday sentenced a Fateh member to nine life terms for killing a Palestinian who worked in the Israeli police and seven other suspected collaborators with Israel. The former policeman, who quit the Israeli service when the uprising began in 1987, was shot dead by Jamal Ahmad Lubad in July at Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank. Fateh has officially laid down arms under the September 1993 autonomy accords, but some renegade elements refused to support the deal.

Cairo denies Israeli charge

CAIRO (AFP) — The security services on Wednesday denied an Israeli report that Palestinian militants were smuggling explosives from Egypt for bomb attacks on Jews. "This report is completely unfounded," Lieutenant Tamer Al Saghir, an interior ministry spokesman, said. "No arms or explosives trafficking operations have been recorded between Egypt and the Palestinian territories or between Egypt and Israel," the officer insisted. The Jerusalem Post newspaper, quoting a senior Israeli security official, said on Nov. 1 that explosives used by militants to carry out suicide attacks had been smuggled in from Egypt.

Crown Prince returns, voices hope for realistic European role

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday expressed hope that Jordan would reach an agreement with the European Union (EU) in the coming few weeks on partnership in fulfilling the requirements of peace in the Middle East. The two sides will hold a dialogue to reassess Jordanian-European cooperation in the era of peace, Prince Hassan said in a statement upon his return to Amman from a European tour. He said Jordanian-European cooperation under the mid-1970s protocol did not cover matters related to the requirements of the peace era which has just started. Referring to Jordan's efforts to help the Palestinian people, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom had actively and successfully participated in a conference by donor nations which promised aid to the Palestinian people. He congratulated the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in the self-rule area of

Palestine for securing European aid. The donors met in Brussels where the Belgian foreign minister said that Europeans believed that the situation in Gaza and the West Bank needed an urgent European response. Referring to the planned European summit in Essen on Dec. 8, the Crown Prince said Jordan hopes that it would result in more than mere expressions of "sympathy" or "concern" over the situation in the occupied Arab territories or the situation in Bosnia. "We hope that the European summit would result in a more comprehensive declaration than previous ones, ushering in a serious and practical initiative on the part of Europe in settling these issues," he said. "Since the Venice Declaration of 1980, the Europeans did not take the desired initiatives to settle regional issues but now this initiative is much desired and wanted," Prince Hassan added. Referring to the peace

treaty between Jordan and Israel, the Crown Prince said that it was a regional affair with the United States playing a key role. "But I would like to say that this regional affair requires understanding and support on the part of the European nations. There can be no more excuse for Europe not to contribute towards peace under the pretext that the United States was assuming that role," said the Crown Prince, adding that Europe was close to the region in all aspects and had a basic role in bridging the gap represented in the Mediterranean Sea separating Europe from the Arab World. Prince Hassan said that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was present at the Brussels meeting and this presence helped to improve Syrian-European relations and led to the lifting of a European arms sales ban on Damascus. "We welcome this development and hope that further participation on the part of Syria and Lebanon would take place in further

conferences and meetings in order to better explain the Arab and regional issues to the European nations," Prince Hassan said. The last stop in Prince Hassan's tour was Vienna, where he delivered an address to the Europe of Religions International Conference organised by the Institute for Human Sciences. The Crown Prince told the meeting that there was real optimism for peace in the Middle East for the first time in decades (see page 7 for the Crown Prince's full address). Upon his return to Amman, the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, was met by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other Royal family members and government ministers and senior officials. The Crown Prince was sworn in as Regent soon after his arrival in Amman. Shortly after his return, the Crown Prince chaired a Cabinet meeting and briefed the ministers on the outcome of his European tour.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent, shortly after his return home Wednesday, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and Acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi and other officials (Petra photo)

Jordan diplomatic team due in Tel Aviv, demarcation starts Dec. 6

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian Foreign Ministry delegation is due in Tel Aviv today to scout for premises for the Kingdom's embassy and residence for diplomats ahead of the expected opening of the diplomatic mission on Dec. 10.

A similar Israeli delegation is also expected in Amman amid unconfirmed reports that Israel had decided to open its diplomatic mission here at the premises where the American embassy operated until 1990 when it moved to Abdou. The old embassy premises, situated between second and third circles, is privately owned. Maintenance men were seen at work at the building this week.

The visits of the delegations come amid continuing discussions between Jordanian and Israeli experts on implementing the peace treaty between the two countries signed on Oct. 26.

After two days of talks in Aqaba, officials from both sides announced Wednesday that teams were set up to start demarcating the

Jordanian-Israeli border in December.

Major-General Tahsin Shurdom, head of the Jordanian side to the Border and Security Committee with Israel, said the delineation process will start on Dec. 6 and will be conducted by three teams on each side. The Jordanian team will be drawn from the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Maj.-Gen. Shurdom said the discussions this week also covered the demarcating of borders and security measures at Al Ghamr and Al Baqoura areas in the north where Israelis continue to use Jordanian land. Part of the territory there will be leased to Israel from 25 years.

A higher committee chaired by Hani Al Mulki, president of the Royal Scientific Society and secretary-general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, has approved the establishment of a sub-committee including representatives of the ministries of interior, agriculture and water and the Jordanian Armed Forces to apply Jordanian laws in these areas.

Work in this respect is expected to be completed before the end of December.

A committee made up of armed forces officers is in charge supervising Israeli withdrawal from the borders and removal of landmines and barbed wires.

However, Maj.-Gen. Shurdom said, the removal of the barriers along the borders would take some time and further discussions were needed in this context.

The Jordanian delegation leaving for Tel Aviv today on a two-day visit will be headed by Omar Rifai, head of a special bureau at the Foreign Ministry, who has attended most of the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations since June.

The government has chosen Marwan Muasher, spokesman of the Jordanian peace negotiating team, as Jordan's first ambassador to Israel. Officials said the related official papers had been sent for Israeli approval, which is not expected to take more than a few days.

The officials could not or would not say whether Jordan had received similar papers from Israel nominating

(Continued on page 12)

Jordan seeking \$25b from U.S. in 10 years to revamp Armed Forces, improve economy

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is seeking about \$25 billion in American aid over the next 10 years to modernise its armed forces and to offset the cost of restructuring its debt-ridden economy as a means to sustain and develop peace with Israel. But, according to Jordanian and other sources, it is too early to tell how far the U.S. and other industrial countries will go in meeting the Kingdom's requirements for the era of peace. Almost half of the sought-for \$2.5 billion annual aid would be used to modernise Jordan's cash-strapped Armed Forces and security apparatus so it can protect the Kingdom's 980 kilometres of borders and carry out its "regional responsibilities." According to official sources, the Kingdom has calculated its economic requirements based on plans to improve the living standards of its people, nearly 30 per cent of whom live under the poverty line, including a large number of Palestinians still living in 11 refugee camps in the country (U.N. figures estimate

that about 250,000 Palestinians still live in those camps). The Jordanian request was also based on the need to offset losses to the treasury from the expected trade liberalisation and economic reform as well as financing regional projects and meeting the commitments of servicing a \$6.8 billion foreign debt. His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, is depending on the United States to supply Jordan with a major portion of its military needs to support the Kingdom's decision to make peace with Israel, officials said. In late September, the Monarch asked U.S. President Bill Clinton in a letter for \$2.5 billion a year in grants over the next 10 years to help revamp the army, with special emphasis on border security, and to revitalise the economy. The letter was followed by detailed requests for three to four squadrons of F-16 fighters (a squadron has 18 to 24 planes), around 200 M1A2 main battle tanks, around 500 Bradley armoured fighting vehicles and a large

amount of support equipment and ammunition. "We will work with Jordan to meet your legitimate defence requirements and to give you the security you deserve," President Clinton told a joint session of the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26, the day of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace accord. He did not offer specifics except for a \$75 million grant to encourage overseas investment in the Kingdom. During the president's one-day visit to the Kingdom, Jordan requested immediate infusion of money. U.S. assistance to help get debt write-offs or reduction from other countries and a complete security package, according to a senior official. Washington is writing off \$702 million of official debts to the United States. The write off, spread over three years, started with \$220 million for 1994. Jordan owes the U.S. nearly \$300 million more in debts that are not eligible for write-off under American parameters. Washington has urged its allies to offer debt relief to Jordan. The U.S. has met with "some success," but

the bulk is still pending because different donor countries have different laws concerning debt forgiveness, informed sources said. "Jordan alone cannot shoulder the bill of peace," Information Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times in an interview. "They (the international community) should know that the bill is very heavy." "We expect more than what President Clinton indicated in his speech (to Parliament)," said Dr. Anani referring to the president's pledge of the \$75 million grant. "We are entitled to a commitment of aid like the one given to Egypt and Israel after they signed the Camp David accords of 1979; we are entitled to ask for this assistance not only from the United States but from other donors including the European Community and Japan," he added. Although diplomatic sources in Amman would not confirm that their countries had received a "specific list" from Jordan as to its economic and military needs, one diplomat said. (Continued on page 12)

PLO: Israel must quit W. Bank before vote

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A leading Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Wednesday rejected an idea floated by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israeli troops remain in West Bank population centres during planned Palestinian elections. "This contradicts the (Israel-PLO) agreement and is impossible. It is incompatible with free elections," Faisal Al Hussein told Israel Radio. During a rare tour of the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, Mr. Rabin said: "We will have to check to what extent elections can be held without the army necessarily having to get out of the city centres — though this is subject to negotiations." Israel and the PLO signed an interim peace deal last year granting self-rule to Palestinians first in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. The PLO took over Gaza and Jericho in May. The peace accord included plans to expand self-rule to the rest of the West Bank, with an Israeli troop with-

drawal from populated areas to precede Palestinian elections. It set elections for last July, but the vote was delayed over differences between the two sides on the nature and size of the Palestinian body to be elected and security arrangements in the West Bank. Israeli opposition leaders say an army redeployment in the West Bank will invite a wave of attacks on Jewish settlers allowed to remain there under the interim accord. The Israeli army said Israel will hand over to the PLO control of taxation and health in the West Bank on Thursday as part of an effort to extend elements of self-rule to still-occupied areas. Taxation and health are the last of five spheres Israel has agreed to hand over to the Palestinian self-rule authority. "The last of the five spheres of authority will be transferred to the Palestinians. The transfer was delayed because there was no agreement on finances. But now there is an agreement,"

Israeli woman soldier killed in Afula attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian man killed an Israeli woman soldier in northern Israel Wednesday by striking her in the forehead with an axe, police said. Soldier Liat Gabai, evacuated by helicopter to Rambam hospital in the coastal city of Haifa, died at 1500 GMT, said Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai, deputy director of the hospital. Police in Afula, about 100 kilometres north of Jerusalem, braced for anti-Arab disturbances, with over 150 troops rushed in as reinforcements, security sources said. They said the woman was well known in the town and angry residents had gathered in knots on the streets. They said police went to factories in the Jewish city and suggested to several hundred Arab labourers that they go home, detaining 10 who had invalid permits. Afula is surrounded by numerous villages populated by Israeli-Arabs and its factories also bring in Palestinian workers from the occupied territories. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin condemned the attack

but said violence would not stop peace negotiations. "We shall continue on the way to peace, and fight those who oppose it," Mr. Rabin told reporters. Mr. Rabin, pointing out that the man had been jailed at least twice by Israel in the past, said stopping such lone attackers was especially troublesome for the security forces. He said checkpoints from the occupied territories had to let pass cars driven by settlers and East Jerusalem Arabs, all bearing the same yellow plates as cars from inside Israel. "Such cars are used by people who oppose the peace," Mr. Rabin said, a day after he announced that it was time to start creating a more formal separation between the occupied territories and Israel. Police said the soldier was waiting at the bus station in Afula around 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) when the attacker struck her in the head with an axe several times. She collapsed and was rushed to a hospital. The attacker was caught several minutes later by (Continued on page 12)

Donors give \$125m to PNA

BRUSSELS (AP) — Foreign donors responded Wednesday to a plea from Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat by granting \$125 million in immediate aid to create jobs and cover the spending gap in the Palestinian territories. "It's a very important step forward... a serious drive by the donors to provide for the Palestinian people," said Nabih Shaath, chief Palestinian delegate at the two-day donors' conference. On Tuesday, Mr. Arafat appealed for money he said was vital to improve the living standards in the poverty-stricken Gaza Strip. If not, Mr. Arafat warned, poor Palestinians will turn increasingly to groups which violently oppose his peace deal with Israel.

The money will help the Palestinians balance their budget and contribute to U.N. job creation programmes such as building roads and sewage systems. It is part of the \$700 million promised by international donors for this year. So far, only \$140 million of that money had arrived. "I'll go back to Gaza with relief and renewed hope," said Terje Larsen, U.N. coordinator in the Palestinian territories. The Palestinians agreed with donors to set up an international committee in Gaza to monitor and coordinate distribution of the aid. That could clear the way for more donations from nations who have held off sending promised funds for fear the money might go astray.

The Brussels conference was attended by officials from the United States, the 12-nation European Union, Japan, Arab States and other countries. Dr. Shaath and Israeli representative Uri Savir also held talks with business people from Israel and the United States on setting up an industrial zone for private companies in Gaza. Of the aid cleared Wednesday, \$23 million will go on public works projects which aim to create 5,000 jobs in the next few weeks. A further \$102 million will go to making up the gap between spending and tax revenue in the Palestinian territories through March 1995. Norwegian Deputy Foreign

(Continued on page 12)

Achille Lauro ablaze; 2 killed

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The Achille Lauro cruise ship caught fire off the East African coast Wednesday. Most of the nearly 1,000 people aboard fled safely in lifeboats as the listing ship burned, but two passengers died. After fighting the blaze, the last 60 crewmembers aboard abandoned the vessel, which had gained notoriety for the 1985 hijacking by Palestinians. "The whole aft half of the ship is fully engulfed" by flames, said U.S. Navy pilot Lieutenant Paul Frost, who flew over the site in the afternoon. He said the Achille Lauro had straightened a bit but was still listing 30 degrees. The shipping company said the fire apparently broke out in the passenger area some time before an SOS was sent

out at 0359 GMT. The cause was not known. A coast guard official in Rome, Admiral Eugenio Scurezza, also confirmed that the fire continued to burn after the Achille Lauro was abandoned. The 23,478-tonne ship lay 130 miles south of the Horn of Africa off Somalia, Italian port official Ferdinando Lolli said in Rome. Captain Lolli said 581 passengers and 404 crewmembers were aboard when the fire broke out. A dozen vessels responded, and at least three ships were picking up passengers and crewmembers from life rafts. Most of the crew was Italian, and the passengers mainly South African, German, Dutch and British. The Panamanian oil ship Hawaiian King was one of

the first to arrive and took on some 800 people, Adm. Scurezza said. The Liberian-registered Bar Du and a Greek ship, the Treasure Island, also were picking up passengers. The Italian coast guard said one passenger known to have died was an 84-year-old German, an apparent heart attack victim. Rosella de Pasquale, a spokeswoman for the Starlauro Cruise line, identified him as Gerard Szimke. Starlauro officials said a South African, Edward Morris, 68, also died. Eight other people were reported injured, none seriously. The Achille Lauro left Genoa Nov. 19 on its way to Haifa, Israel, and had been due to dock in the South African port of Durban on Dec. 2.

Handwritten signature: محمد ناصر

Romanian envoy lauds ties with Jordan

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Romanian Ambassador Anoton Pascale said Thursday that Romania welcomes the recent progress in the peace process adding that this will encourage expansion of ties between Jordan and other countries.

During a press conference held Tuesday at the Romanian embassy to mark 76 years since the completion of the Romanian unitary nation state, Mr. Pascale praised His Majesty King Hussein's distinguished role in the peace process.

"I believe that Jordan has accomplished an excellent peace process, which will reflect positively on its economy in the near future," the ambassador said.

According to Mr. Pascale, the latest developments would boost trade between the two countries and "Romania became more interested in investing in industrial projects and improving infrastructure."

"Romania plays a stabilizing role in this region by strengthening good relations with all its countries, and when we add its economic strategic potential, we can say, in modesty, that Romania is called on to play a crucial role," said Mr. Pascale.

He further added that after the December 1989 revolution very important delegations and missions had shuttled between Romania and Jordan.

Since 1990, he said, more and more Romanian companies have been doing business with Jordan, and, at the

same time, new commercial opportunities are offered by the Romanian market to Jordan exports.

The most recent economic developments include the participation, last April, of Abdul Hadi Majali, head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Jordanian Parliament, at the Trans-Montana international conference held in Bucharest, and the negotiation, in August 1994, of a new trade agreement initiated in Amman.

He also referred to contracts signed between Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. and the Romanian company Romelectro, for the project of high voltage electrical lines connecting Zarqa to Saabha.

"Romania is ready to implement this project and other projects that will help connect countries in the region together. If it is asked, especially that Romanian engineers have built a big part of the oil refinery," he said.

In addition, Mr. Pascale said, in February, a contract was signed between Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. and the Romanian Company Industrial Export S.A. to carry out a "turn key" project in Aqaba for oil storage tanks with a capacity of 200,000 cubic metres.

Mr. Pascale also said that the positive economical, political and social changes that both the Romanian and Jordanian countries have experienced had created the favourable framework for the diversification and betterment of bilateral relations.

However, Mr. Pascale called on the Jordanian people not to rush things and wait, "because it will take time



Romanian Ambassador Anton Pascale (left), Cultural and Press Attaché George Bogdan (centre) and Commercial Attaché Mihai Burghel Tuesday hold a press conference at the Romanian embassy on the occasion of Romania's national day (photo by Rana Hussein)

before things start changing to the way the Jordanian people are hoping."

"I am saying this based on my experience with my country. When we switched to democracy, people thought that things will change overnight, but that was not the case," he said.

According to Mr. Pascale, in 1993, Romania overcame a bias that affected its image by being admitted as a full member of the Council of Europe, thus concluding the association agreement with the European Union (EU). This year, Romania was the first country to sign the partnership for peace with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"We intend to maintain a rapid pace with Europe and develop good relations with the United States, Middle East, Far East and other dynamic areas of the world," said the ambassador.

Mr. Pascale said that he was optimistic about future investments between Jordan and Romania, adding that there are tremendous investment opportunities for Jordanian companies in the near future in the pharmaceutical industry, foodstuff industry, farming and banking insurance.

Egypt's high society in rumpus on holiday village

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's high society is up in arms at plans to build new chalets in a luxury Mediterranean holiday village, accusing the government of favouritism towards ministers who have homes on the site.

In contrast to the low-key protests by tens of thousands left homeless by torrential rains in southern Egypt earlier this month, the well-todos have gone straight to the top.

In a letter to President Hosni Mubarak, they accused developers of wanting to "massacre" the Marina complex, 100 kilometres west of the port city of Alexandria.

Some 80 chalets are due to be built to recoup the \$8 million spent by Egypt on laying the village's infrastructure.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki, most of his ministers and Parliamentary Speaker Fathi Srour as well as businessmen, film stars and Gulf emirs have holiday homes in the complex.

"We had hardly got over the floods in Upper Egypt when we received a new shock. This time it is a man-made catastrophe, the massacre of the green areas of Marina," the letter said.

Resident Fahmi Moemen complained that by trying to build the new chalets Housing Minister Ibrahim Salei-

man was "flouting our rights and massacring the green areas."

"But he is also showing favouritism because he hasn't touched the garden of the villa belonging to Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kamal Al Shazli."

Marina's Mayor Milad Hanna is convinced the row "has led to dissensions within the government" and believes Mr. Suleiman, who has met with residents, could be "forced to resign."

The holiday village, built on an old Roman port from where Egyptian wine and corn was exported to Europe, is almost deserted apart from two months of the year when 10,000 people escape the stifling heat to relax by the Mediterranean.

Each villa costs more than \$300,000, a fortune for most Egyptians.

According to the U.N. Programme for Development the average annual salary is \$610 and more than a fifth of the population of 60 million live below the poverty line.

The 4.5 square kilometres village cost \$300 million. Mr. Moemen has even sent the president's wife Suzanne a telegram pleading "in the name of my grandchildren and all the children in Marina to protect the green areas of the village that they are massacring."

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE court delays hearing of ex-AMF official

ABU DHABI (R) — A court in Abu Dhabi has postponed a hearing for a former Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) official convicted of embezzlement in the United Arab Emirates to give him time to find a lawyer, a local newspaper said on Wednesday. The Arabic-language Al Khaleej said the hearing was postponed until Dec. 27 after Mahdi Bahr Al Ulum asked the court on Tuesday for a delay to find a lawyer. The court also allowed him a copy of the case file. Al Khaleej had reported Bahr Al Ulum faces a possible 75 years in jail after being extradited from Lebanon. The court will consider his objection to his conviction, the paper said.

Greek defence minister to visit Israel

ATHENS (AP) — Defence Minister Gerasimos Arsenis will visit Israel for three days starting Dec. 1 to discuss military cooperation between the two countries. It will be the first ever visit by a Greek defence minister to the Jewish state, the ministry said Tuesday. Mr. Arsenis will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other officials. The announcement said his talks will focus on increased cooperation between the Greek and Israeli defence industries.

Palestinian prefers Israeli jail to arranged marriage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian teenager gave himself up to the Israeli authorities as would-be Muslim fundamentalist killer rather than go through with a marriage arranged by his parents, police said. The 18-year-old from the Bethlehem region went to a nearby Jewish quarter and asked an Israeli how to find the police station. Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby said, "He showed a knife and claimed to be a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. The Israeli immediately called the police. Mr. Ben Ruby added. The Palestinian was arrested but confessed he simply refused to wed a girl he did not like."

Saudis stress Islamic values on AIDS control

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has urged health education on the "principles of Islam" to counter the growing threats from AIDS. Speaking Tuesday night at the opening of an international conference on AIDS in Riyadh, Deputy Governor

Prince Sattam Ben Abdul Aziz, called on educational institutions and the media to help protect young Saudis from what he said were "destructive attempts to spoil our society."

He said that "one of the great sources of relief stems

from teachings of Islam, which like other divine religions, prohibits illegal sexual activities or drug abuse."

As the three-day conference got underway, a health ministry official reported that more than 90 Saudis are infected with the deadly virus.

The official, Dr. Mohammad Al Jifri, also confirmed to the conference that there are more than 300 HIV-positive cases in the kingdom.

The kingdom, like other conservative Gulf states, rarely reports cases of AIDS.

AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN (AWA)

CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR

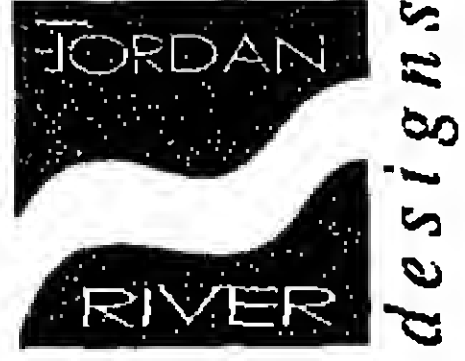
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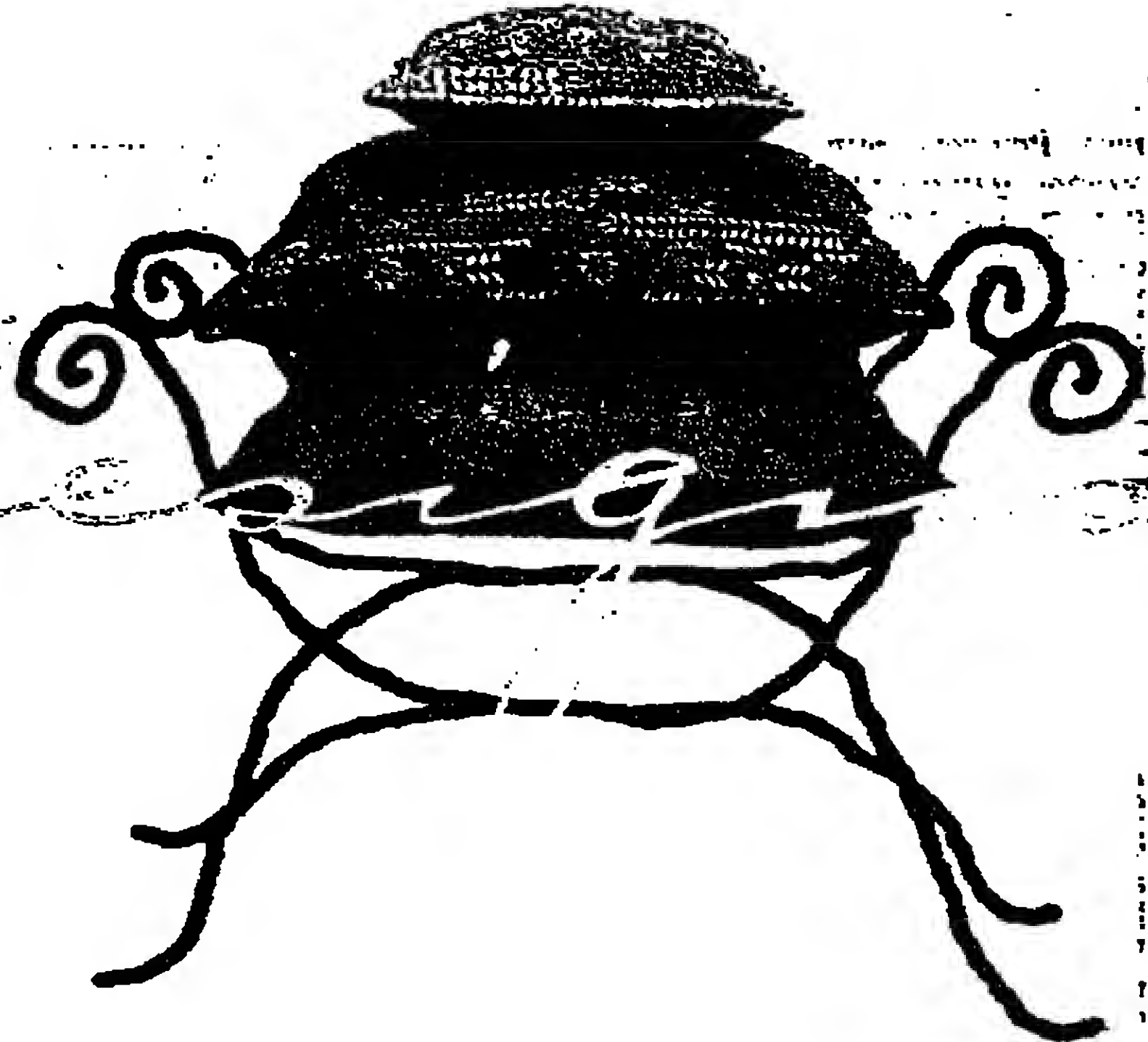
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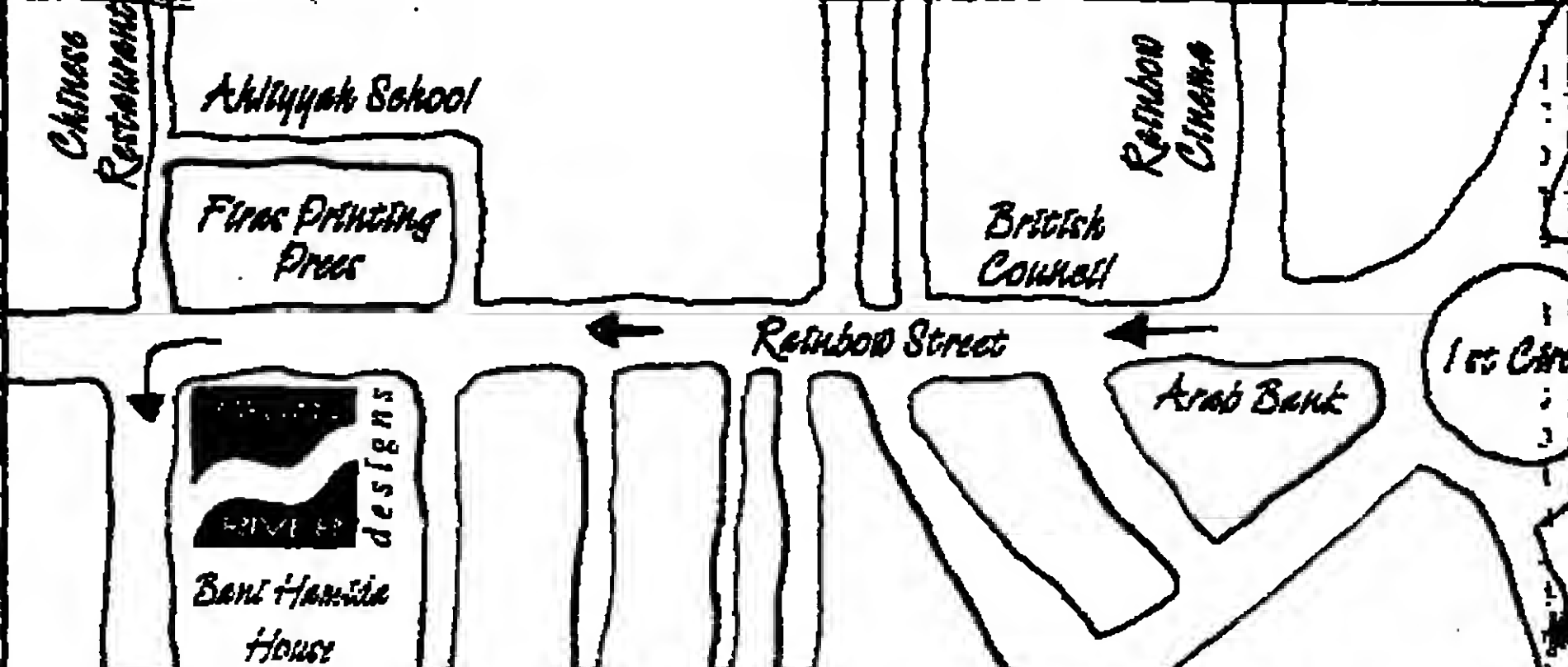
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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Tao-Tao

19:00 Film: "Le Voleur Des Feuilles"

19:30 News in French

19:45 N.B.A.

19:55 Planète En Equilibre

20:30 The Road to Avonlea

21:10 Tonilia and Bonetti

22:40 News in English

23:20 The Heart and Davies Affair

23:59 The Investigator

PRAYER TIMES

06:51 Fajr

06:12 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:24 Asr

16:36 Maghrib

17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Jamil Maraga 776149

Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672

Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500

Dr. Ghazi Abdullah 884286

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fordow pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Qanu 636381

Akud pharmacy 985417

ZARQA: Dr. Mahab Hijawi 981217

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 636800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 660131

UJ University Hospital 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9

Army, Marla 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Amry, Marla 891611/15

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital 1799

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999090

IRBID: Prince Basmah Hospital (02)75555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72723

Rn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:00 Aden (RJ)

07:20 Sanas (RJ)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)

09:15 Riyadh (RJ)

09:40 New Delhi (RJ)

09:55 Beirut (RJ)

10:25 Colombo (RJ)

17:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (add)

20:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:25 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)

18:25 London, Berlin (RJ)

19:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

19:05 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

20:00 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:20 Cairo (add) (AF)

11:45 Doha (O7)

12:40 Sharjah (AH)

13:00 Riyadh (SV)

16:15 Dubai (EK)

17:50 Cairo (MS)

20:20 Beirut (ME)

22:55 Istanbul (TK)

01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

HAUZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:30 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:30 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg

Apple 700

Banana 200

Banana (Mukammal) 200

Cabbage 130

Carrot 300

Cauliflower 300

Clementine 300

Cucumbers (large) 200

Cucumbers (small) 400

Eggplant 100

Garlic 500

Grape Fruit 200

Lemon 200

Mattow (large) 100

Mattow (small) 100

Onion (green) 200

Onion (dry) 200

Orange 200

Pepper (hot) 200

Pepper (sweet) 200

Potato 200

Sprout 200

Tomato 200

Jordan's AIDS cases rise to 116

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The number of people in Jordan with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) now stands at 116, of which 34 are non-Jordanian. Health Minister Aref Batayneh announced Wednesday.

On Nov. 8 the ministry had announced that 110 people were infected with the AIDS virus. At that time the ministry said that 30 non-Jordanians were among those infected.

The release of the current figures came on the eve of the World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, called for annually by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which said in a statement that the observance of the day was part of the global effort to meet the challenge of AIDS, an epidemic that continues to worsen in all regions of the world.

Dr. Batayneh said Jordan was not considered a country facing a genuine AIDS problem according to WHO standards, and the number of AIDS cases was still very limited.

Referring to ministry safeguards to contain the spread of the disease, Dr. Batayneh said it was cooperating with



Aref Batayneh

various institutions and the media in teaching the public ways of protecting themselves against this killer disease.

He also said that blood transfusions in Jordan are conducted under strict control to stem any spread of the disease.

Noting that the ministry's efforts were focusing on school-children, the minister said that teachers are playing a very important role in spreading awareness especially as students could travel to study abroad, where most

AIDS cases are contracted.

To help prevent the spread of AIDS in Jordan, all non-Jordanian workers coming to the Kingdom have to undergo AIDS tests, especially those wishing to stay in the country for more than a year.

In the course of a national campaign to spread public awareness, the health ministry has formed special teams which tour the country to provide information about AIDS prevention methods and distribute pamphlets and booklets to households and schools.

In its statement, WHO said World AIDS Day highlights AIDS prevention and control activities already under way and forges new channels of communication about AIDS. It said World AIDS Day is now an annual event in most countries, helping to build a lasting worldwide effort to stop AIDS.

In his statement Wednesday, the health minister quoted WHO figures as estimating the number of AIDS cases worldwide at 13 million.

He said that WHO believes the figure would rise to 30 or 40 million by the year 2000, noting that two-thirds of patients were found to be youths under 25 years of age.

Possibility of snow in weather forecast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Wednesday forecast more rain and possibly snow for this weekend, while the Ministry of Public Works and Housing said it is prepared to deal with road emergencies.

The Kingdom will continue to be affected by a cold atmospheric low pressure centered over southern Syria causing temperatures to drop noticeably and bringing scattered showers to most regions, said a department spokesman Wednesday after noon.

Rainfall, he said, will intensify Thursday evening and Friday and Saturday. He said there could be a chance of snow in regions 1,200 metres high. Temperatures would not rise above 9°C in the coming two days and are expected to drop to lows of 3°C and 4°C at night.

He warned of poor visibility due to fog, especially in mountainous regions. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Works said its operation rooms were on full alert to deal with any emergencies.

A ministry statement Wednesday said that the recent heavy rains blocked several culverts with dirt and rocks disrupting traffic on the main roads. Ministry workers have now cleared most culverts, and all roads were reported in good condition.

Referring to the Irbid-Jerash road which was severely hit by the storms, the ministry said that the road was blocked by fallen trees and rocks, especially near the Zarqa stream where several landslides occurred.

It said that some of the side roads and culverts are still being cleared, but otherwise the highway itself suffered no damage. According to engineers at the operations room at the King Talal Dam, by noon Wednesday water in the dam, the largest in Jordan, had exceeded the 50 per cent capacity mark.

Students boycott university classes

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 1,000 students Wednesday demonstrated in front of the president's office at the University of Jordan urging a continuation of the boycott of classes, because, according to the demonstrators, negotiations between the students union and university officials over grade regulations reached a deadlock on Monday.

For the second consecutive day, students boycotted classes at some faculties to protest the 60-per cent grade system, which stipulates that students retaking courses they have failed can only attain a maximum of 60 per cent.

The demonstrators want that regulation abolished.

Student union leader Majdi Smadi organised a march Wednesday morning which started from the Faculty of Law and toured all the university faculties before ending in front of the president's office, according to the demonstrators.

University President Fawzi Gharalbeh said the university administration will not tolerate truancy, adding that "university regulations regarding class absences will be enforced on any student who fails to report to class."

Dr. Gharalbeh said when representatives of the students union approached the administration more than three weeks ago demanding to have the 60 per cent grade regulation changed, the university conducted a study which revealed that less than

six per cent of the students had failed their classes last year. He said it also showed that only 16 per cent of the 23,000 students currently attending classes at the university had scored grades of less than 60 per cent. "This is a very small percentage, and we cannot amend university regulations to serve only this small number," Dr. Gharalbeh told the Jordan Times.

"Who will defend the 94 per cent of students who succeed and compete to score high grades?" he asked.

He added that each university sets its own standards and we are not obliged to follow the same rules as other universities.

"Our university standards are high compared to other universities, and it is our responsibility to maintain these standards — we cannot compromise in the academic matter," Dr. Gharalbeh said.

Dr. Gharalbeh said the university administration had formed a committee to discuss the issue with the students union. He said the administration contacted the students union to convene a meeting with the committee and the union on Tuesday. "But they did not show up, and today we called them again for another meeting, but they did not come; instead they staged this demonstration," Dr. Gharalbeh said.

Mr. Smadi, president of the student union, said that the union did not meet with the committee because they wanted a final answer to their demands before formally



Students Wednesday demonstrate in front of the office of the president at the University of Jordan (photo by Rana Hussein)

meeting with the committee. Dr. Gharalbeh explained that the authority to change academic regulations does not lie solely with the president, and that is the reason for forming a committee to study the issue, meet with the students union and then take a decision.

"I hope that the student union will use the channel of dialogue, instead of staging more demonstrations, and we are ready to meet with them," Dr. Gharalbeh said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Smadi, an agriculture major, claimed that the strike was very successful, and that in the faculties of science, engineering, arts, business and commerce, more than 90 per cent of the students boycotted classes.

Dean of Students Affairs, Mohammad Khreisat, said that the numbers are exaggerated. "We don't have a

final list ... but I believe only 40 per cent failed to attend classes," Dr. Khreisat said.

Meanwhile, a third-year student denounced the way the student union handled the issue.

"They did not give us a chance to voice our opinion about the issue. They are only promoting their opinion," Abdul Hadi Majali said.

Another student also expressed disapproval with the way the situation was handled by the union.

"I am for changing the 60 grade law, but I think there are more appropriate ways to tackle the issue, and the demonstrators should respect the university administration instead of chanting impolite slogans that offend the university president and the administration," said Ala'a Abu Ruman, a third-year education major.



AN OPENING IN SALT: Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al-Hassan, Wednesday opens an art exhibition at the Salt Cultural Centre marking Balqa Governorate's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The exhibition, Qataneh, Chairman of the Arab Youth Forum to last three days, is organised by the Forum Nayef Al Hiyari, and several Balqa Chapter of the Arab Youth Forum. It includes exhibits, drawings, embroidery, ceramics, natural and artificial flowers, Arab calligraphy, Koranic verses, as well as photos of the King and the Royal family. Present were Balqa Governor Eid King Hussein's birthday. The exhibition, Qataneh, Chairman of the Arab Youth Forum to last three days, is organised by the Forum Nayef Al Hiyari, and several Balqa Chapter of the Arab Youth Forum. governorate officials (Petra photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Government compensates farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is compensating Jordan Valley farmers for losses they incurred to their tomato crops caused by the recent flooding in the valley, acting Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi Wednesday announced in Parliament. The government had set up a special committee to examine the extent of flood damage and assess the compensation that should be allotted to the farmers, Mr. Hindawi said. Replying to queries raised by several deputies concerning problems facing farmers, compensation and the country's supply policy, Mr. Hindawi said the government remains committed to subsidising basic commodities including sugar, rice, flour and dried milk, which are sold to limited income groups.

Meeting to host German, Jordanian scholars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Monday will

host a meeting of Jordanians who have benefitted from a German academic exchange service (DAAD). The two-day meeting will be held under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education Rabea SEaoud. A German embassy statement said that University President Fawzi Gharalbeh and DAAD President Theodor Berchem, as well as German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers and Dr. Saoud will be the main speakers at the meeting which will be held at the university's Faculty of Engineering and Technology auditorium. The statement said that at least seven scholars from Germany and Jordan will address the gathering tackling the following topics: security and cooperation in the nearest; the political situation in Jordan after the peace treaty; Euro-Arab development cooperation and the Middle East peace process; the environment dimensions; water problems in Jordan and their solution; and infectious diseases.

Nabil and Hisham to break new barriers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "No peace, no peace," chants Nabil Sawalha, his words echoed by a caste of supporting actors in the courtyard behind the Ahlan Theatre. With fists raised in the air they continue in English, "No normalisation, no normalisation." As the angry voices grow louder, Hisham Yanes quickly places a finger over his lips signalling them to keep it down. "Not so loud. People will think it's a demonstration," he whispers.

Despite the slogans blatantly denouncing peace, the aim of the exercise is certainly a far cry from combatting normalisation. In fact, it is just the opposite.

Known best in Amman for crushing stereotypes, poking fun at political taboos and slaughtering sacred cows, Jordanian comedians Nabil and Hisham are about to break new barriers: physical and linguistic.

The new direction of the play is likely to raise a few eyebrows and ruffle some feathers. A Salam Ya Salam is Tel Aviv-bound. Since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel,

opposition in the Kingdom has vowed to fight all forms of normalisation with cultural exchanges ranking number one on their hit list. And the Jordanian Writer's Union has come out with similar statements condemning literary contact.

But Nabil and Hisham are undeterred. Time and again they have dismissed their hardline colleagues for making a living from misery and conflict. For the comedy duo, the overwhelming success of A Salam Ya Salam, their playful parody of peace, is evidence that the tide has been turning and that the public is ready for neighbourly relations. "Jordanians are laughing — and that is a healthy sign," says Hisham.

But will the thunders of laughter that have filled the Ahlan Theatre in Jabal Amman for nearly a year since the play first opened be heard in Israel?

Over rounds of tea after a mid-day rehearsal, the caste considers how their still faceless audience will receive the play. Referring to the portrayal of Jews, who range from the militant biblical Joshua — more a modern day Baruch Goldstein — to the tight-fisted characterisation of

Israeli negotiator Eliakim Rubenstein, the question is asked, "Is it racist?"

Given the equal amount of jobs taken at Arab personalities, there is good reason to believe that Israeli theatre-goers will also receive the play in good humour.

Nevertheless, there is some cause for concern that other misunderstandings may result. A review recently published in the Jerusalem Post chalked up Hisham's impersonation of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, as keen to kiss every political figure who crosses his path, as a sign that, like Israel, the Arab World "questions his sexual preference."

And of course, there is a question of what language to present the play in. While there is no doubt about performing the long running Arabic version of A Salam Ya Salam in Nazareth, Nabil and Hisham are contemplating launching their Tel Aviv debut with an English-language translation.

"Many Israelis understand English, and besides the Cameri Theatre has headphones for simultaneous translation in Hebrew," Hisham points out. On the other hand, it has



The "Joshua" skit from the comedy A Salam Ya Salam

been suggested that the Arabic production would carry more weight, not least because it is the first time a Jordanian theatre group will take to the Israeli stage. Other reasons favouring the original script include the automatic inclusion of the Arabic-speaking Oriental Jewish community as well as the rich use of puns.

With the date of their opening in Tel Aviv still up in the air, Nabil and Hisham still have time to decide whether to give it a go in English or to stick with what they know best.

And besides, the creators of A Salam Ya Salam get to test the waters in Amman, since starting Dec. 3 the English language version will be featured twice a week at the Ahlan Theatre.

Sparked by a request from Amman's Diplomatic Club, whose non-Arabic speaking members have been eager to laugh along with the rest of the country, they decided to make the translated production an institution, said Hisham.

Caste and director alike say the main challenge in English is to preserve the spirit of the show.

Coaching the English-language version scheduled to open in a week's time, Nadeem Sawalha, accomplished actor and brother of Nabil explains, "The show is an impression. The main thing is not to kill the spontaneity. The definition will come later."

That is no small task. When asked off stage if any of the caste has ever acted in English, Hisham, who never misses an opportunity to highlight the humour of any situation, shoots back, "The question is, have any of them ever spoken English?"

JOB OPPORTUNITY

INTERNAL AUDITOR

International company has opening for an internal auditor. Applicants should have a university degree (Masters level preferred) in accounting with a minimum of five years' audit experience. Job requirements include the ability to apply principles of control, analysis and monitoring of internal / external financial administration including budgeting, reporting, taxation, and revenue relating to various departments and divisions. Good understanding of modern administrative practices and equipment essential. Applicants should have strong English and Arabic language skills (verbal and written). Competitive salary based on experience.

For interview, please contact:

Ghada Taha
Tel. 661836 Fax 605277

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

Culture and Art on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

★ Film entitled "Aladdin" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar (includes books, tapes, clothes, and accessories) at Mu'tah University.

BAZAARS

★ Christmas bazaar at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun on Thursday and Friday (10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.).

★ Charity bazaar at the Armenian Relief Society (handmade goods, embroidery, food, toys, Christmas cards) all day long on Thursday and Friday (Tel. 775-268).

DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue on the artists works of Adnan Al Sharif with the participation of Mohammad Al Ameri and Kifah Habib (with a slide show) at the Phoenix Gallery for

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).

★ Exhibition of Pakistani art entitled "Colours and Forms" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

★ Motor show '95 at the International Motor Exhibition, airport highway.

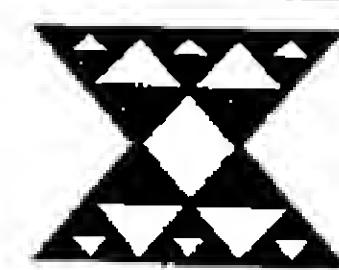
FOR ART LOVERS EXHIBITION — SALE

Contemporary art works by Arab and foreign artists, drawings, paintings, watercolours, prints and sculptures. Also a collection of Jordanian pots, jars and kalims. Sale runs from Friday 2nd until Friday 9th December 1994, daily 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

At Mona Saudi's studio - Abdoun Village

Directions: take road opposite gate of American embassy. Road turns to right at end: Take 1st turn left. 2nd house on right between pine trees.

Tel: 829700



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مكتبة الوطن

Nepal premier sworn in; vows to defend democracy, investment

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's new Communist prime minister named a hardliner and his own brother to key cabinet posts Wednesday as he vowed to defend the kingdom's fledgling multiparty democracy and encourage foreign investment.

Man Mohan Adhikari, 74, was sworn in as the Himalayan nation's first Communist prime minister by his former foe, King Birendra, at the royal palace in the capital Kathmandu.

Mr. Adhikari spent 17 years in jail in a lifelong fight against absolute monarchy and was imprisoned by King Birendra's late father before a ban on political parties was lifted in 1990. The new prime minister now supports constitutional monarchy.

He quickly appointed a 15-member cabinet of close advisers, naming Communist Party General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal as deputy prime minister, foreign minister and defence minister.

Mr. Nepal belonged to a hardline Communist faction,

the Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist-Leninist, which in 1991 merged with a more moderate movement led by Mr. Adhikari to create the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party.

Mr. Adhikari's UML party won a plurality in general elections on Nov. 15 and will need the support of rival parties to win a parliamentary vote of confidence which must be held within 30 days of his becoming prime minister.

At its first cabinet meeting, the government appealed to people to "stay calm and maintain law and order," Mr. Adhikari told reporters. The cabinet asked the king to summon the new parliament for Dec. 14.

In a message read to the Nepali people after taking the oath of office, the new prime minister said the Communists would continue to accept foreign aid and capital, and try to use the money more effectively.

"We will use the foreign capital and encourage (foreigners) to invest," he said.

The new prime minister named his brother, Bharat Mohan Adhikari, as finance minister.

He is a lawyer by profession and was a member of the commission which in 1990 wrote the constitution, ending absolute monarchy and ushering in multiparty democracy.

The party has vowed to curb landholdings, slow or even halt a privatisation programme while at the same time promoting private enterprise.

The new prime minister, who will head a minority government 15 seats short of a parliamentary majority, said he intends to pursue "pragmatic" economic policies.

"We shall keep the country's reality in mind, adopt practical and pragmatic economic policies, and hope for cooperation from all others in our consensual approach," Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari told a news conference Tuesday.

In his message to Nepalis,

Mr. Adhikari said he would try to make industrialists and the private sector more "effective," while focusing on rural development.

He pledged to toe a neutral line in foreign policy and to rewrite a three-decade-old treaty with India which he claims gives New Delhi unfair influence over Nepal's affairs.

Mr. Adhikari said Communist rule would not spell the end of Nepal's experiment with multiparty democracy.

"We have prepared the election manifesto of our party on the basis of the people's multiparty democracy plan," he said. "On the basis of this plan, communism will work in Nepal."

Mr. Adhikari made quick adjustments to power. He went to meet the king at the palace Tuesday in an old Toyota and departed in a black Mercedes-Benz limousine. He had trimmed his long shaggy beard into a goatee.



King Birendra of Nepal (right) officiates at the swearing in ceremony of newly elected Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at the Narayanhity Royal Palace. Mr. Adhikari became the first Communist prime minister in Nepal's political history after elections ended in a hung parliament (AFP photo)

Norway aims to secure position in Europe after snubbing EU

OSLO (AFP) — Norway's government must now steer a post-EU referendum path between limiting the effects of commercial isolation while responding to an electorate that has rejected closer ties with Europe, analysts said Wednesday.

Norwegians voted Monday by a 52.2 to 47.8 per cent margin to reject membership of the European Union (EU).

Labour Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a strong EU advocate, must spend the next months safeguarding her country's position in Europe after the defeat, as Norway's 4.3 million inhabitants have no wish to be completely cut off from the EU's 370 million.

Meanwhile the battle for victory in scheduled 1997 general elections has begun in earnest, with the country's anti-EU parties seeing their

position strengthened by the outcome of the referendum. One of Ms. Brundtland's first tasks is to ensure the country's European Economic Area (EEA) agreement is not weakened.

"The work of looking after the country's best interests by saving as much of the EEA agreement as possible begins now," Ms. Brundtland said.

Norway fears that the framework of the EEA agreement, which gives Norway access to the EU through free movement of labour and goods and services, will now be weakened.

"I hope that the fishing industry does not move out of Norway, but I don't feel very secure," said the pro-EU minister.

Other industries that threatened to leave Norway if the country rejected membership will now consider their options in the coming weeks.

Want to see how the EEA agreement can be secured," Fisheries Minister Jan Henry Olsen said.

"At the same time, we want to try to prevent Norwegian fish exports from meeting tariff barriers in the old EFTA countries of Sweden, Finland and Austria."

Fish is Norway's second-largest export next to oil. In 1993, Norway's fish exports totalled 16.6 billion kroner (\$2.44 billion), primarily to the EU, Sweden and Finland are two of Norway's largest fish importers.

"I hope that the fishing industry does not move out of Norway, but I don't feel very secure," said the pro-EU minister.

Other industries that threatened to leave Norway if the country rejected membership will now consider their options in the coming weeks.

Cambodian forces, Khmer Rouge defectors launch attack on mountain

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AFP) — Government forces assisted by Khmer Rouge defectors were advancing on guerrilla bases in Cambodia's northwest Siem Reap province, replying to rebel raids in which scores of people were abducted, 500 homes burnt down and 40,000 people displaced, provincial officials said.

The government troops, backed by artillery, were focussing on Khmer Rouge bases in the mountainous area of Phnom Koulen, deputy Governor Kang Heang said Tuesday.

"This attack was decided after (First Prime Minister) Prince Norodom Ranariddh came to Siem Reap for the (recent) water festival," Kang Heang said.

"He talked to Khmer Rouge defectors and encouraged them to join us in the battle," he added.

The prince spoke to some 150 Khmer Rouge defectors who were previously based around the Phnom Koulen area. The guerrillas have since joined in what is estimated to be a 1,000-troop government force making a three-pronged advance on

the mountain.

Other government forces were moving in behind the mountain to try and cut Khmer Rouge supply lines.

The mountain is prized because its fertile soil is ideal for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables and because of its cool climate, unspoiled scenery and splendid waterfalls, which would make an ideal attraction for tourists visiting the nearby world famous temples of Angkor Wat, the deputy governor said.

"There are around 100 to 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers there. I think it is possible for us to take the place before the end of the dry season because we are more numerous and they are far from their Anlong Veng base," he said.

The guerrillas would probably use their usual tactic and flee when under pressure, he said.

Phnom Koulen is located some 15 kilometres (nine miles) northwest of the spectacular temple of Banteay Srei Temple, which is often inaccessible to tourists due to insecurity and poor road conditions.

Military pressure, psychological warfare and the cutting of supply lines are three key tactics being used by the Cambodian government to eliminate the Khmer Rouge, co-premier Hun Sen said Wednesday.

"First of all we need to apply military pressure. Secondly, we need to cut off all the Khmer Rouge supply lines along the (Thai-Cambodian) border and inside the country, and the third tactic is psychological warfare," Mr. Hun Sen said.

The co-premier outlined Phnom Penh's strategy on breaking the Maoist guerrilla movement in a speech to provincial governors and police chiefs at a seminar on national security.

"All these three tactics must go together. We cannot succeed by fighting them alone without cutting their supply lines or luring them to defeat," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Mr. Hun Sen, himself a former Communist, added: "If we just appeal through radio and television, the Khmer Rouge will never defect, it will be just like playing music for the buffalo."

Burmese rebels ready to talk peace

BANGKOK (R) — Karen nationalist leader Bo Mya, making a rare appearance at a Bangkok news conference Wednesday, said his rebel group was ready to discuss a ceasefire with the Rangoon junta and called for Japan's help.

General Bo Mya, whose Karen National Union (KNU) forces have battled for over four decades against Burmese government troops, urged Japan to use its position of power in Asia to mediate a peace settlement.

"We of the KNU never consider the Burmese as our enemy. The Burmese is our friend and we are only fighting... against the Chauvinism of the SLORC," Mr. Bo Mya said, referring to Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Burmese are a major subgroup in Burma's population of about 42 million people. The Karens and Shans are two main ethnic groups still fighting for self-rule.

Mr. Bo Mya, 76, was in Bangkok as the guest of a Japanese Friendship Association linking businessmen, academics and politicians who are committed to working for peace and unification in Burma.

The Japanese association and KNU signed an agreement in which the KNU repeated earlier statements that it was ready to negotiate a ceasefire pending a peace settlement.

Army withdraws from troubled Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The army, which has patrolled the streets of this troubled port city for the past 30 months, withdrew its troops Wednesday amid fears that violence and crime could spiral out of control.

More than 500 people have been killed in political and ethnic violence in Karachi this year and there have been almost daily gun battles in recent weeks.

Many residents question whether the government and the police can contain the mounting hostilities and the general sense of lawlessness.

Hundreds of Karachi's leading businessmen took to the streets in a peace march last week, and many called for an increased army role rather than a withdrawal.

But Abdullah Shah, the chief minister of Sindh province, which includes Karachi, said it was time for the troops to go.

"The army pull out will not mean a total breakdown of law-and-order," Mr. Shah said.

He believes that 10,000 paramilitary troops, supported by police will be able to keep the city under control.

The army said the last contingent of troops would be moved out of the city by midnight Wednesday. They will be stationed at bases nearby and can return to the city streets in a matter of hours.

The soldiers numbered as many as 20,000 shortly after they were sent onto the streets in May 1992, but their numbers were reduced to about 5,000 in recent months. The troops helped curb violence initially. But their role has become increasingly controversial.

The security forces have been accused of widespread abuses, including unlawful

killings and torture, by the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), a powerful opposition group.

The MQM accuses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of discriminating against Mohajirs, or Muslims who have migrated from India. Mohajirs account for the majority of Karachi's 10 million people and most support the MQM.

Ms. Bhutto's government, meanwhile, says the MQM is a terrorist organisation that uses violence to advance its cause.

To further complicate matters, the MQM has split into two factions that often fight each other when not battling the security forces.

The turmoil has disrupted industry in Pakistan's business capital and has scared away foreign investors at a time when money is flowing into many Asian countries.

Suspect in Dahmer slaying identified

PORTAGE, Wisconsin (R) — Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who mutilated and cannibalised his victims, believing he was the devil, may have been murdered by a violent fellow inmate who thought himself to be the son of God, news reports said.

Officials named Christopher Scarver, a 25-year-old black inmate, as the chief suspect in Mr. Dahmer's beating death in a prison toilet and the Milwaukee Journal reported that Mr. Scarver had a long history of mental problems, including a belief that he was the son of God.

Mr. Scarver, convicted of a 1992 execution-style slaying in Milwaukee, was the other inmate working on the same janitorial detail with Mr. Dahmer, 34, and fellow-

inmate Jesse Anderson, 37, who was also beaten in the attack.

Mr. Scarver was found with blood-splattered clothes.

Prison officials maintained that there was no reason to believe there was a motive in the attack against Mr. Dahmer and Mr. Anderson, both of whom are white, which took place Monday at the Columbia Correctional Institution.

Many of Mr. Dahmer's 17 victims were black and fellow-inmate Mr. Anderson — who remained in critical condition Tuesday falsely accused blacks of the 1992 stabbing murder of his wife for which he was later convicted.

Mr. Scarver had spent some time in the prison's

section for mentally ill inmates and he took anti-psychotic drugs, but was not viewed as anti-social or violent, an unnamed prison official told the Milwaukee Journal.

Scarver is serving a life term and Columbia county District Attorney Mark Bennett said there was no rush to charge him. "We're not under any pressure or deadline to get a murderer off the streets," Mr. Bennett said.

Mr. Scarver, along with two other inmates who may prove to be witnesses to the attacks, were being held in segregated units at the maximum security jail.

Investigators were trying to determine if other inmates might have been involved in carrying out or setting up the attack.

Europe's alphabet soup — the rough guide

LONDON (R) — During the cold war, talk in the corridors of diplomatic power was of the East-West military balance, warheads, throw-weights, scenarios for armageddon and how to prevent it.

In the new world disorder, we have alphabet soup.

If you don't know the difference between CSCE, NATO, NACC, PFP, EU and WEU, the next few weeks may prove confusing.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, old organisations have changed and new ones have sprung up like weeds. None of them has been able to end the new wars in Europe, with Bosnia the most striking and humiliating example.

December is always the month when they gather for meetings, sitting around long tables in Europe's capitals to discuss the search for security, prosperity and justice.

Diplomats say these organisations — whether military, political or economic — complement each other.

The sobering reality is that they have all failed to prevent the return of conflict to Europe for the first time since World War II.

Many of these institutions have overlapping and even competing roles, with different countries promoting their own interests in each body.

The United States, for example, gives NATO the lead role because it dominates the alliance, while Russia favours the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) since it does not belong to the other institutions.

Some of these bodies are the exclusive preserve of rich Western nations and look set to remain that way for some time, despite the desire among Eastern European states to join.

Foreign ministers from the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) meet in Brussels Thursday, followed by a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council

(NACC), a 38-nation forum which groups NATO allies with their counterparts from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

One of the things they will discuss is the Partnership For Peace (PFP), a scheme for foreign closer military ties between NATO and its former enemies.

The CSCE, which groups all European states with the United States and Canada, holds a summit in Budapest next week. The organisation grew out of a 1975 Helsinki conference.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the fragmentation of other borders in Europe, the CSCE has grown unwieldy. Its 53 member states compare with an original 35. Everyone is included and critics say this means not much gets done.

After the Budapest summit, leaders from the 12-nation European Union (EU) gather in the German city of Essen. The EU is to economic power what NATO is to military power in Europe.

AIDS summit to highlight north-south divide

PARIS (AFP) — Political leaders gather in Paris Thursday for the first ever World AIDS Summit, with the gulf between northern and southern hemispheres in fighting the pandemic likely to be a key theme of discussions.

Delegates face stark figures showing that over 90 per cent of funds in the global fight against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) are going to industrialised countries, while AIDS-stricken developing or Third World states get less than 10 per cent.

"We must increase research in Africa, help our... colleagues to take up the task," said Luc Montagnier, whose Institut Pasteur team discovered the AIDS virus HIV more than a decade ago.

"Africa is not a lost continent," he added, speaking less than 48 hours before the summit began.

Representatives from 42 countries will gather for the summit at the Paris headquarters of the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in discussions coinciding with World AIDS Day.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and a number of prime ministers will also attend a day of deliberations culminating in a final declaration of intent.

But the crisis in funding the fight against AIDS in both hemispheres was highlighted in a report by the World Bank even before summiters began arriving in Paris.

The report lamented that the poorest countries of Africa are among the worst afflicted and therefore least able to fight the disease, pointing out that AIDS is already slowing down the economies of some sub-Saharan African countries.

World Bank Director General Sven Sandstrom said that of \$1.5 billion spent in fighting AIDS globally, only 10 per cent was going to help countries in the Third World.

A specific problem is that research in developed countries suffers from lack of funding.

The problem was addressed this week by French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre, who has proposed an international system of financing for AIDS research in non-industrialised countries.

Taking as an example a vaccine on trial in Russia, he said the laboratory involved had understandably not wanted to take the risk of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on research if there was no guaranteed return.



Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, surrounded by French celebrities, inaugurates a 40 metre red ribbon hung from the Eiffel Tower November to mark World AIDS Day. A meeting of 42 countries on the AIDS problem will be held in Paris at UNESCO headquarters (AFP photo)

veloped countries for the countries of the south."

"No continent is now free of the epidemic, it concerns every country," Mr. Debre said. "Either because they are cruelly hit by the virus, or because all indications are that they are about to be ravaged, or because they are the main providers of money,

they have to give a helping hand to those who are without."

The most notable absentee from the summit will be Rwanda, of which 60 per cent of soldiers were infected with the HIV virus before this summer's three-month bloody civil war, according to official figures.

Pele to promote help campaign for Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

Pele made a lot of friends over the years. Now he is asking them to help. "I want my businessmen friends in Japan, the United States and other first world countries to come invest in Rio," soccer's greatest player said in an interview Tuesday with the Rio daily Jornal Do Brasil. Pele, now 34 and himself a wealthy businessman, said he felt it his duty to help Rio snap out of a miasma of violence and decay. Things are so bad the army is patrolling the streets to fight crime.

"The time has come for the turnaround," Pele said. "That's where we come in with a great movement in favour of Rio. All must help the city grow."

Pele recalled how people kidded him in 1960 when he scored his 1000th goal and dedicated it to the poor. "No one took it seriously, (and) now everything is worse," he said. "We must cooperate. Rio has worldwide repercussions. What works here can inspire the whole country." Pele led Brazil to three World Cup titles in 1958, 1962 and 1970. After a stint with the New York Cosmos, he retired in 1977.

Golf originated in China 1,000 years ago — paper

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese professor says the modern game of golf originated in China about 1,000 years ago, refined out of an ancient game involving hitting a ball with a club, the official People's Daily newspaper said Wednesday. After many years of research, sports Professor Ling Hongling of the northwestern Normal University says he has identified three aspects of modern golf that closely resemble a Chinese game played in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the newspaper said. The similarities are that the ancient game was played on wide-open grassy areas, competitors used a stick with a bent head, and their aim was to hit a ball into a small hole in the ground. Professor Ling said.

Moscow mothers invent dads for illegitimate babies

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of Moscow mothers invent names for the fathers of their newborn children to make the babies' certificates conform to city norms, Moskva's Komsomolsky newspaper said.

The paper said every fifth baby born in Moscow last year was illegitimate, up from 15 per cent three years ago. A third of the mothers of illegitimate children invented a name for the father, illegitimacy has risen in Russia as the strict moral codes of Soviet days gave way to a new era of permissiveness.

Poor contraception and a lack of sex education mean more and more babies are born to young, unmarried women. The article gave no figures for abortion, still the main form of birth control for millions of Russian women. Without high abortion rates, it said the figure for illegitimate births would be much higher.

To further complicate matters, the MQM has split into two factions that often fight each other when not battling the security forces.

The turmoil has disrupted industry in Pakistan's business capital and has scared away foreign investors at a time when money is flowing into many Asian countries.

Cervantes Prize goes to Mario Vargas Llosa

MADRID (AFP) — Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa Monday won the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary award, for his life's work. Born in the town of Arequipa in 1926, Mr. Vargas Llosa, who obtained Spanish citizenship last year, is the author of numerous renowned works, including The City and The Dogs, The Green House and Aunt Julia And The Clerk. Now living in London, Mr. Vargas Llosa is an accomplished essayist and journalist, and stood unsuccessfully for the Peruvian presidency in 1990 as the candidate of a centre-right coalition. He has been an outspoken advocate of free-market economic policies in Latin America and a vociferous critic of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Mr. Vargas Llosa's most recent novel, Lituma In The Andes, last year won Spain's Planeta Award, another literary prize. Other writers to win the Cervantes award include Argentina's Ernesto Sabato, Mexico's Carlos Fuentes and Spaniards Rafael Alberti and Francisco Ayala.



Chechen government soldiers from the president's troops ride atop a APC along the central street of Grozny, the capital of Chechnya (AFP photo)

Chechen leader offers talks; new raid on Grozny reported

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev Wednesday offered to negotiate with Moscow to find a solution to the conflict in his breakaway Russian Caucasus republic, Interfax news agency reported.

The report came as Chechen government sources told AFP in the republic's capital that two warplanes raided the Grozny military airport.

An AFP reporter said thick smoke could be seen rising from the airport but it was not immediately possible to determine the extent of the damage.

Mr. Dudayev was quoted by Interfax as saying he would start negotiations with Russian authorities "as soon as it (Moscow) proposes."

Mr. Dudayev's move came only hours before the expiration of an ultimatum from Russian President Boris Yeltsin who threatened to impose a state of emergency and send troops to Chechnya unless the republic submitted to Russian constitutional rule.

On Tuesday unidentified warplanes attacked the presidential palace in Grozny as Mr. Dudayev was giving a press conference rejecting Mr. Yeltsin's ultimatum.

The Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday it had sent a plane to repatriate Russians taken prisoner by Chechen government forces during fighting for control of the republic.

Elena Agapova, an assistant to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, said that once the hostages were repatriated, Moscow would identify them to determine whether they were members of the Russian Armed Forces, as authorities in the breakaway republic maintain.

Russia has denied repeated accusations by Chechen authorities that Moscow troops have fought alongside Chechen opposition forces.

Ms. Agapova added that she did not believe the prisoners' lives were in danger. The plane was sent to the Russian Republic of Northern Ossetia that borders Chechnya.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared the republic's independence from Russia in 1991, earlier this week sent Moscow a list of 11 fighters captured during weekend clashes for control of the capital Grozny.

He identified them as Russian soldiers fighting beside the Moscow-backed opposition trying to topple him.

Mr. Dudayev Wednesday refused to meet with several Russian deputies who offered to head to the Chechen capital to negotiate the release of the prisoners.

Mr. Dudayev said the prisoners would not be freed prior to direct negotiations between the two governments.

The mother of one of the prisoners, Svetlana Anatolyevna Volfovich, said Wednesday that her son had been sent in on a "mission" to Chechnya.

She said her son, Dimitri Volfovich, 21, was called in on an emergency last week and told he was being sent on a mission.

Meanwhile, Chechen opposition fighters Wednesday suspended military operations after an ultimatum from President Boris Yeltsin, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Russian Martagov, spokesman for the opposition provincial council, told TASS the body would take a final decision on a ceasefire later Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin, trying to end bitter fighting between Chechen leaders and the opposition forces, Tuesday threatened to declare a state of emergency in the mountainous southern region if the two sides did not halt the bloodshed within 48 hours.

But Chechen officials have already rejected the ultimatum, saying Russia would face another Afghanistan if it tried to send in troops.

Reuters correspondent Lawrence Sheets said the capital Grozny emptied rapidly Wednesday as the deadline for possible Russian military intervention approached.

"We're scared, we're getting out of here. I'm taking them to the countryside," said Zena Abdulatova as she loaded her four young children into a waiting car.

Thick black smoke from fuel tanks set ablaze during bombing raids on the city's airport Tuesday still lingered over the town, which lies on the northern edge of the snow-capped Caucasian mountain range.

About a thousand people, many of them armed with rifles and grenade launchers, rallied around the presidential palace in Grozny to show support for beleaguered leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Ivan Rybkin, head of Russia's lower house of parliament, told Interfax News Agency that those combatants who laid down their arms should be amnestied.

"We are very much relying on the fact that those who took part in the bloodshed will stop and that the clans will reach an agreement among themselves," he said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin cancelled a trip to Siberia Wednesday because of the worsening situation in Chechnya, a government spokesman said.

The daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta said Yeltsin's personal security had been stepped up because security officials feared Chechen fighters could attack the president's motorcade.

Moscow telephone operators refused to put through calls to Chechnya Wednesday, saying they had received strict instructions to cut off contact with the region.

Meeting row mars Ghali mission to Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali began a peace mission to Bosnia Wednesday but his talks with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic were put at risk by a row over where to meet.

Mr. Karadzic demanded a meeting on Serb-held territory while U.N. aides insisted the two men should talk at Sarajevo Airport which is controlled by U.N. peacekeepers.

U.N. sources said Dr. Ghali, seeking a ceasefire across Bosnia after 32 months of ethnic war, was reluctant to have a meeting on Serb soil while Mr. Karadzic's army held 500 U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldiers hostage.

The Bosnian Serb Army detained British, Dutch, French and Canadian peacekeepers as a shield against NATO air attack during the attack on the U.N. safe haven of Bihac in northwest Bosnia.

Lifting the Serb blockade of mainly Muslim Bihac was high on Dr. Ghali's priorities when he arrived in Sarajevo where the public mood towards the United Nations has been soured by the debacle in the enclave.

He will also seek guarantees, mainly from the Serbs, that UNPROFOR can carry out its core mission of getting aid to Bosnia's civilian population.

"I am an optimist," he told reporters at the airport as he left his aircraft without wearing a regulation flak jacket as protection against Sarajevo's snipers.

"I hope we will create a new momentum in favour of a ceasefire in Bihac."

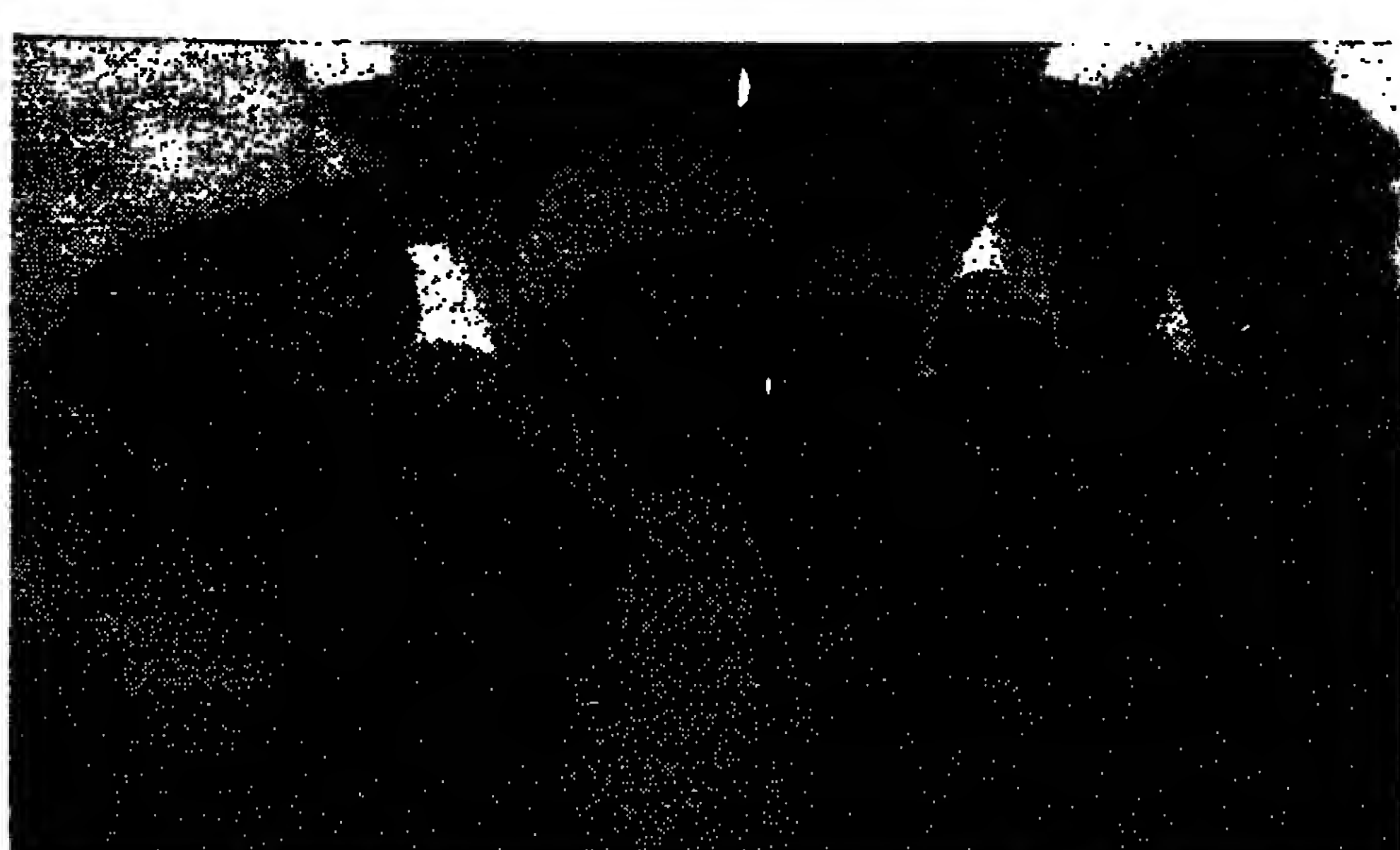
He was driven off at once to meet Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at the shell-scarred presidency building in central Sarajevo while U.N. officials tried to negotiate a compromise with the Serbs.

Dr. Ghali drove into the city along its notorious "sniper alley" where a lone protester earlier carried a banner reading: "U.N. genocide in Bosnia."

The mood among a knot of Sarajevoans, convinced the U.N. and NATO betrayed Muslims during the Bihac fighting, was hostile outside the presidency.

A member of the group, 44-year-old Huso Zagic, said: "I don't think he should be allowed to enter the presidency. While he's bullshitting here, people are dying in Bihac."

Another man who identified himself only by his first name, Muso, added:



U.N. Bosnian Force Commander, General Sir Michael Rose (right), welcomes Charles Thomas (centre), the American member of the five-nation contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina upon their arrival at Sarajevo's airport. The experts from the United States, Russia, Germany, Britain, and France came to hold talks with Bosnian leaders aimed at saving the U.N. peace plan (AFP photo)

"They're lying to us every single moment. They haven't respected a single Security Council resolution."

Muslims assumed that the U.N. designation of Bihac as a safe area guaranteed that NATO warplanes and UNPROFOR would protect it against the Serbs.

But international efforts to save the town collapsed over the weekend in a welter of recriminations between the two international organisations, divided about the level of force to be used, and Western governments which have never been able to formulate a coherent policy towards the conflict.

Yasushi Akashi, the secretary-general's special representative in former Yugoslavia and one of the men most blamed by Muslims for their plight, denied that Bihac was a failure for the United Nations.

"We are doing the job given to us by the Security Council as best we can," he said as he accompanied Dr. Ghali.

The secretary-general arrived with the backing of a demand from the Security Council to both Muslim and Serb forces to cooperate with his mission.

Bosnian government 5th Corps troops defending Bihac sent a message of defiance from the town of 70,000 people, saying they would "rather eat grass and leaves" than depend on the United Nations.

"We no longer expect anything from UNPROFOR," 5th Corps spokesman Sandi Zulic said by telephone.

Serbs are still shelling the town's defences after over-

running a third of the safe area but have not tried to advance deeper.

They are thought to be leaving the capture of Bihac to rebel Muslims still fighting with government troops for the town of Velika Kladusa in the north of the Bihac enclave.

The United Nations said a British U.N. convoy of 43 men, who were among those detained, arrived in Sarajevo safely Wednesday morning after being released.

The Serb demonstration of military strength in Bihac appeared to have convinced international peacemakers to revive diplomatic efforts to end the war by offering the Serbs fresh concessions.

The United States spoke of a possible new international conference if the warring sides could be brought to agree.

Bosnian Serbs — who hold 70 per cent of Bosnia — rejected a major power peace proposal during the summer which would have divided the country, giving half to them and half to a federation of Muslims and Croats.

Meanwhile U.S. Senator Robert Dole, who infuriated the British by accusing them of doing "absolutely nothing" to end the conflict in Bosnia, faced an icy reception from Prime Minister John Major in London Wednesday.

Sen. Dole, slated to become Senate leader in January following the Republican election landslide earlier this month, was to meet Mr. Major late Wednesday after talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Defence

Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

The meetings came as sharp differences in approach to the Bosnian conflict between Britain and Republican congressional leaders strained traditionally close Anglo-American ties.

During a meeting with NATO officials in Brussels Monday, Sen. Dole set the U.S. Congress on a collision course with the NATO allies by declaring one of the Republicans' first priorities would be to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims.

"There has been no pressure on the Serbs," he said, "and until there is some leverage, it's going to be very difficult to stop the fighting."

Britain's position is that injecting more weapons into the conflict would be the least likely way of ending it.

Britain and France, with a total of some 7,500 U.N. troops on the ground in the former Yugoslavia, have resisted all efforts to lift the embargo, warning it would bring Serb reprisals against U.N. forces and a general escalation of the fighting.

Sen. Dole infuriated British ministers and MPs by criticising the role of the British and French in trying to negotiate a political settlement and by calling for U.N. forces to be pulled out and the arms embargo to be lifted.

"The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is supposed to be there to protect the civilians and they're not doing it," Sen. Dole said before coming to Europe.

India calls for dialogue with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India recently proposed holding talks with rival Pakistan to reduce bilateral tensions, but Islamabad turned down the offer, Indian Foreign Secretary Kris Srinivasan said here Wednesday.

A message that New Delhi was willing to go "more than half-way" to resume a dialogue on bilateral problems was conveyed to Islamabad last week by Indian Cabinet Minister Arijun Singh, Mrs. Srinivasan told reporters.

Ties between the twin countries, born at the close of Britain's colonial rule over India in 1947, have always been strained.

Hindu-dominated India and Muslim Pakistan have fought three wars since then, two of them over Kashmir, which has been split by the two countries.

Mutual animosity has increased since a Muslim secessionist revolt broke out in the Indian zone of Kashmir five years ago.

Mr. Srinivasan said Pakistan's negative response to India's proposal on talks would not discourage New Delhi.

He added that officials here regretted the "unnecessarily sterile atmosphere" in relations with Pakistan and would wait patiently to meet at the negotiating table.

On a recent trip to Pakistan, Mr. Srinivasan met and invited counterpart Najmuddin Sheikh to visit India.

"We are looking forward to a fruitful and constructive dialogue," Mr. Srinivasan said.

Mr. Srinivasan said he had suggested that Islamabad consider supporting a one-on-one meeting between Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and P.V. Narasimha Rao of India at a South Asian summit due here in April.

Mr. Rao has publicly stated twice in the past month that he backed holding a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve bilateral conflicts.

The last official meeting took place in January, when Mr. Srinivasan's predecessor, J.N. Dixit, travelled to Pakistan, but made little progress in resolving the Kashmir issue.

India accuses Pakistan of waging a "proxy war" by arming and training Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir.

Pakistan denies direct involvement, but says it lends moral support to the campaign, which Islamabad calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

At least 11 foreign mercenaries and six others were killed in separate overnight gunbattles in strife-torn Kashmir, officials said here Wednesday.

Berlusconi tries to avert strike

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi met leaders of Italy's three big trade unions Wednesday in a last-ditch bid to avert an eight-hour general strike scheduled for Friday against government plans to save money on pensions.

As the meeting got under way, several hundred people demonstrated outside Mr. Berlusconi's office to protest against the government's plans to save \$5 billion on pensions next year.

The strike would be the latest and largest in a series of stoppages and protests against the 1995 budget, which unions say will hit the poorest hardest.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose government was rocked last week when he was placed under investigation for alleged graft, won the backing of his fractious cabinet Tuesday for continued government. He denies any wrongdoing.

The prime minister was expected to offer some concessions to soften the planned cuts in a bid to ward off the first all-day national strike in 12 years.

But the three unions, whose members number 11 million, appeared set to demand a full climbdown.

Unions want the radical reform plans to be split away from the 1995 budget, which parliament must pass by the end of the year. They say that will give parliament more time to consider the measures which include a major cut in future pensions and a block on early retirement benefits next year.

More than one million people demonstrated in Rome earlier this month in one of the largest street protests since World War II.

Jan. 1.

Mr. Kohl said the meeting with the Eastern countries would last one and a half hours to inform the guests about what had been discussed in Essen by the EU Council of member governments.

"After some consideration and consultation with our partner countries... we decided to invite the state and government heads simply to send out the message that we are not running a 'closed-shop' in the European Union," Mr. Kohl said at a joint news conference with French President Francois Mitterrand.

"Instead we want to show that these countries will be welcome if they want to join (the EU) and if their domestic and economic situations permit that," Mr. Kohl said.

The invitation had been in doubt for several weeks despite Mr. Kohl's earlier statements that prospective Eastern members should attend some EU summits.

Mr. Kohl denied he had reconsidered the invitation, telling the news conference it was issued after discussion by EU foreign ministers Monday.

Diplomats earlier cautioned that the invitation did not mean the EU enlargement process was being speeded up, given the enormous financial and legal complexity of admitting four former Communist states.

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Major will not be challenged for party leadership

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major Wednesday escaped a challenge to his leadership of Britain's Conservative Party, giving him a breathing space to try to restore the government's political fortunes.

Right-wing critics of Mr. Major had threatened to back a no-hope candidate for the post merely to demonstrate the degree of unrest in the ruling party over Mr. Major's leadership.

But Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the committee responsible for running party elections, told Reuters the critics had been unable to get the required support from 34 Conservative members of parliament, one tenth of the parliamentary party.

"There has been no other nomination... John Major has been returned for another term," he said.

Leadership challenges can only take place once a year in the autumn.

Mr. Major won the top job in British politics after a challenge to Margaret Thatcher's leadership toppled the iron lady in 1990.

The Conservatives, wallowing 25 points behind Labour in opinion polls and suffering severe internal ructions over Britain's links with Europe, are putting their trust in tax cuts to win over voters before the next election, due by mid-1997.

But Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke warned Wednesday any tax cuts would have to be based on sound economic principles if they were to carry conviction with voters cynical about the Conservatives after their unbroken 15-year hold on power.

Mr. Clarke Tuesday produced a "steady-as-she-goes" annual budget on taxation combined with radical plans

to curb public spending and bring the budget deficit near to zero in 1997-98.

British newspapers were unanimous that this strategy was aimed to boost Conservative popularity by providing room for heavy cuts in income tax before the election.

"Tax cuts: It's jam tomorrow," was the headline in the Daily Express, a leading pro-Conservative newspaper.

However, Mr. Clarke told a news conference: "The political credit for tax cuts, if and when come when people see they are credible."

"If they believed that we were making tax cuts irresponsibly, it would cause not just economic damage, but we would not get any credit either," he said.

On Monday, Mr. Major expelled eight members of parliament from the Conservative faction in the lower house for failing to vote in

favour of a bill increasing Britain's contributions to the European Union. A ninth has since resigned.

The expulsions probably ended any hopes his party opponents had of mounting a leadership challenge, since the eight could not take part in any leadership poll.

But they have left his government in theory without a majority in parliament, and his troubles are far from over.

Next week, he may face a rebellion against a plan to increase taxes on domestic fuel, which could lead to an embarrassing parliamentary defeat.

Mr. Major has stated that any vote on domestic fuel tax would not be considered a matter of confidence. A government defeat in Monday's vote on the European Union bill would have triggered a snap election, Mr. Major had warned Conservative rebels.

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Safety as basic rule

OUR national laws on occupational safety are obviously too lax and their enforcement is even more feeble. The best proof of this can be seen in the construction sector where there is no evidence whatsoever of the slightest respect for safety. There is an abundance of construction going around in the country especially in Amman. Construction of high-rise buildings is becoming a familiar sight anywhere one looks in the capital city. Yet there is hardly any visible sign of workers wearing any safety gear, not even helmets. No wonder work related accidents are on the rise in this country.

Many of these accidents go on unreported and consequently hardly any remedial action is being taken either by construction companies or by the concerned authorities, i.e. the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare. Contractors cannot escape responsibility for the upsurge in work accidents because they are in the best position to do something effective about combating such accidents but are not doing so. By making contractors more accountable for casualties among their workers, the vicious cycle that contributes to these losses can be reduced to a minimum.

Worker unions should also play a leading role in this regard by incorporating new and stringent language in their contracts with employers about work safety. Legislation on this subject should also be amended with a view to making it more responsive to the needs of workers. Parliament is invited to spearhead the effort to rectify their sad situation.

Above all there must be more public awareness of the dangers associated with hazardous practices in the work place. Jordan is on the brink of an important industrial development and further construction booms. We cannot protect or accelerate our progress without proper observance of basic guidelines on safety as a first rule.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily directed attention to a report about the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), filed recently by the Audit Bureau, which indicated that 88 per cent of the 199 employees are unfit for their job. Only five employees hold an accountancy degree and are capable, if properly directed, to control expenses and collect public funds, said Mohammad Subeini. The writer said that many of the employees were given the posts over the past years not on the strength of their education but largely due to favouritism and nepotism. The result is that WAJ faces a JD 39 million deficit since 1992 alone, bringing the total accumulated deficit to JD 192 million, said the writer. He charged that 60 per cent of the pumped water leaks underground and never reaches the public and that WAJ has failed to date to cut water supplies to those people who do not settle their bills or those found stealing water from the mains who, he said, have never been sued in court. The writer said that the WAJ employees are too many and they have very little work, rendering the department totally paralysed. The writer suggested that the government conduct a painful surgical operation, overhauling the whole WAJ system in the public interest.

A WRITER in Al Rai blamed unemployment, low standards of living and poverty in Jordan for the great number of unmarried women. Lack of proper housing facilities and the exorbitant cost of renting a decent home are also deterring men from getting married, said Sultan Al Hattab. Shunning marriage is harmful to the social and economic life in the Kingdom and could lead to very serious social ills, he warned. He suggested that a national seminar be held to discuss the parents who, he said, are sometimes responsible for delaying marriages because they make certain demands and place certain conditions. The writer also suggested that couples be wed in mass celebrations to cut on expenses and that concerned institutions set up a society or club to provide assistance to those planning marriage.

The View from Academia

The early bird catches the worm

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Even though we all agree on the crucial nature of the early school years and recognise the tremendous bearing they have on the amount and quality of education the students ultimately end up with, we in the Arab World seem to give students during these years the least degree of care and attention. With the clear exception of some truly impressive private schools, the kindergarten and elementary stages are largely neglected, ignored and even abused.

This is not to say, of course, that the situation in the more advanced stages of learning is dramatically better. No. At one level in fact, the impediments and problems we find in the earlier years are a splitting image of those we find in the later years: scarcity of competent teaching staff, supervisors and directors; lack of effective curricula, carefully-planned and carefully-executed school activities, parental involvement and support, facilities and teaching aids; and other obstacles related to class size, physical location, etc.

But there is, on top of all of the above, a problem which is peculiar to these early years. It is perhaps best called an attitude problem. Quite simply, most people in our society (especially those directly involved with the educational process, such as teachers, supervisors, education officials, students themselves and parents) have a low opinion of kindergarten and elementary school. The old joke about pediatricians applies perfectly here. A person visits his friend to congratulate him on his son's return from abroad upon completing his studies. "What has your son specialised in?" he asked. "Child medicine," replies the friend. "O, when is he planning to specialise in the medicine of adults?"

The preparatory and secondary stages are seen as significantly superior to the earlier stages. There is a contradiction here. As I have said, we all admit the vital nature of learning in the early years. We talk about it the

whole time, emphasising its role in character building, in discovery of individual ability and talent, in habit formation, in intellectual nourishment — all important factors in the ultimate success or failure of the educational process. But we behave in a manner opposite to the way in which we talk and deepdown we harbour negative feelings and conceptions.

Most teachers of kindergarten and elementary level education view their positions as extremely unfulfilling, unrewarding and unchallenging, and as decidedly inferior to those of their colleagues in the more advanced stages. But this is also the view held by the official educational establishment and by society at large. Many kindergarten and elementary school teachers (though certainly not all) feel unmotivated and unenthusiastic about their job, some suffer from an inferiority complex; they cannot wait to be "promoted" to the higher stages.

This is bad news. The negative implications of this situation are immense. First of all, teachers with such an attitude are not going to perform well. And most do not. Secondly, since this attitude is widespread in the educational establishment as a whole (not just among teachers), then the more competent teachers will in fact be "rewarded" and "promoted" to the higher stages, and the less competent remain where they are. The sad thing here is that the establishment itself knows, condones and encourages such a negative attitude.

The damage caused is grave. A parent of a sixth grade student said to me the other day that his son cannot speak or write one single sentence in English. Another interrupted him and said that his son, who is in the eighth grade, could not speak or write one single sentence in Arabic (meaning classical Arabic). The same applies to history, maths, natural science, etc. The real problem here,

however, is not related to lack of information, knowledge or skill but to damage of the psyche, mind and heart. A student who cannot write a single sentence of English or Arabic is unable, not because he/she is stupid, but because either they do not care to learn or they think they can't learn. Such a mentality may be blamed on the unhealthy educational environment during the early school years, an environment in which the teacher is the cornerstone.

I am conscious, of course, of the many factors that contribute to the prosperity and health of the educational atmosphere, but to me, education, in the final analysis, boils down to a basic setting comprised of a teacher and a student. In my humble opinion, where there is a competent teacher, there is a good student; where there isn't, there isn't. This is the way it has been, the way it is, and the way it will be.

What we want is a change of heart, of mind and of attitude. The establishment must seriously change its stance towards learning in the early years. If it does, it has the ways and means of making all those involved in the teaching process change theirs. And it can begin by becoming less tolerant of incompetent teachers in those two crucial stages and by doing something about it. Many would be ready to raise hell (parents, teachers, headmasters, education officials) if a secondary school lacks a teacher of English or maths (for one reason or another), but very few (if any) care much if an elementary school lacks both a teacher of English and maths, or if the physical training instructor (due to such lack) teaches English grammar.

We need to reconsider and redefine our position towards early education, taking specific measures and specific steps. A lot is riding on it. The English proverb is right: The early bird catches the worm.

The 'tragedy' of an ageing leader

By G.H. Jansen

THE APPROVED wisdom of the cognoscenti on the Middle East is that what has happened to Yasser Arafat in the past is nothing short of "a tragedy." And looked at from the outside, so it is.

Far from being "Mr. Palestine," the loved and respected charismatic leader of his people who, after a long, hard struggle under his leadership, had finally broken through to "the sunny uplands of freedom,"

Now he is not merely the contested but also the reviled, despised and even hated leader of just one faction of the Palestinians, when the talk about him even includes hints of assassination. "What a fall was there, my countryman," to quote the words of Shakespeare.

The nadir was reached when he went to a mosque in Gaza for the funeral of a young militant killed by the Israelis and he was buffeted and jostled, accused of being a "traitor," had his scarf knocked off his head and had to be rushed out of the mosque by his bodyguards.

That was certainly a tragic circumstance, but the question has to be asked: What sort of tragedy is this? Because there are at least two sorts of tragedies, very different from each other.

One is Greek tragedy as expressed in the plays of the Athenian dramatists Aeschylus and Sophocles. The nature of their plots and dramatic action gave rise to the phrase: "The inevitability of Greek tragedy," because in these plays the fate of the hero or heroine is pre-determined and executed by capricious gods and goddesses who intervene directly in the action to send it in one direction or another. Hence the phrase, strangely enough in Latin and not in Greek, "Deus ex machina" (The God from the machine) a reference to the rope and pulleys by which the actors playing the divinities were lowered onto the stage at the end of these plays.

The other sort of tragedy is the Elizabethan, or more correctly, the Shakespearean tragedy, in which there is no inevitability and in



which the tragedy is the result of the actions of the human beings themselves. The Bard himself explained when he wrote: "The fault is not in our stars (meaning fate or destiny or the gods) but in ourselves that we are underlings." Or as the novelist-poet George Meredith put it:

"In tragic life, God wot! No villains need be. Passions spin the plot! We are betrayed by what is false within."

So, there is tragedy imposed from outside or tragedy from within produced by character.

It is not Mr. Arafat's fault that he did not, and still does not, really know the big world outside on which stage, unfortunately for him, the Palestinian problem has been played out. He lacked the necessary background and sophistication because of his limited education and

limited experience. His schooling in Cairo and at Cairo University, for a degree in engineering, was not sufficiently wide or varied as was his early experience as a contractor in Kuwait, which is what he was when he founded "Fateh," which later on took over the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Because of this deficiency he did not even understand the real nature of his enemy, the state of Israel. When he began sending small raiding parties of guerrillas into Israel across the Jordan River he was angry and disappointed when this correspondent informed him that Israel was unaffected by the pinpricks of these raids because Israel was not like the Arab countries, a loosely organised traditional, agricultural country, but a highly organised, urbanised, in-

dustrial society which could only be hurt by sophisticated sabotage from within. "I don't have the sort of men for that sort of action," he confessed.

The world he knew was not the Big World but the Arab World consisting of backward, traditional societies in which "politics" was not the open, cut-and-thrust of party politics but the grey underworld of intrigue and plot and counter-plot, of playing-off one force against another, in which the goal is not the advancement of an ideology or the implementation of an economic plan but mere personal survival. At this sort of politics he is a past master, and has not been called the "great survivor" for nothing.

But he was not really adept at playing the Great Game of World Affairs in which real power, particu-

larly economic power, was what counted. The only power he knew about was the very considerable rhetorical power of the Arabic language — but that is not real, substantial power.

Because of his all-too-many years negotiating his way through the complicated twists and turns of Arab "politics" he has no concept of simple, efficient administration. Hence his autocratic monopoly of power and of decision-making which is crippling the building of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian community is overflowing with skills and brains and varied expertise but, Mr. Arafat refuses to harness that lest it should show his own limited intellectual capacities. And he is not a sufficiently big enough man to rest secure on his own personal strengths — his charisma

and his well-earned popularity.

These then are some of the personal "passions" that have betrayed him from within. But on the outside there are two "gods from the machine" that have worked out the plot according to their own wishes and purposes: Israel and the U.S.

Never has it been as clear as it is now that he is helplessly and hopelessly enmeshed in the net of the policies of these two powers. The first, Israel, was never going to give up on the Zionist dream of acquiring the whole of Palestine, the Jewish "promised land." Unless it was forced to do so by direct and punishing attacks on the Jewish state and its people. And it is surprising, after the few initial pinpricks how few such attacks have been carried out over the years either by Fateh or other militia. Because of lack of intelligence or imagination or because of a crushing inferiority complex, the direct attack on Israel was simply not in the universe of discourse of Mr. Arafat and his men. However, this is precisely what Hamas is now doing, peace process or no peace process, and hence is gaining in popularity.

And the same has been true of the PLO's and Mr. Arafat's relations with the U.S. The U.S., having done more than any other country to help bring the Jewish state into existence, has been determined that no harm should ever come to Israel, especially not from the Palestinians. This big veto power has placed strict, narrow limitations on anything that the PLO and Mr. Arafat could do. He denounces the U.S., in season and out of season, but he has never treated it as an active enemy. Vast and vital American interests all over the Middle East have remained untouched, which betrays his total lack of long-term leadership, a deficiency which is now becoming more apparent by the day.

Thus, Mr. Arafat's tragedy is made up of both the Greek and the Shakespearean varieties,

German parties face up to new political climate

By Michael Christie
Reuter

BONN — Bonn's two main parties have made simultaneous calls for internal reform to bring them into step with a political environment showing the effects of Germany's unexpected unification in 1990.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), who squeezed back into power with their coalition allies in last month's general election, on Monday agreed to try to make their conservative party more attractive to women voters.

Only 24 hours earlier, the opposition Social Democrats

(SPD) stole a march on the CDU with a call from their leader Rudolf Scharping to steer closer to the political centre.

The moves amount to an acknowledgment that the political arena created by unification four years ago bears little resemblance to the old days of the divided nation.

"The results of the second all-German elections make definitively clear that post-unification elections can no longer be seen or judged as a continuation of earlier polls," said an analysis by a Christian Democrat think-tank, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

"Any comparison with voter behaviour and party support in the old federal repub-

lic can only lead astray. The sociological basis for party support has changed drastically."

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, their Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) allies and Liberal Free Democratic (FDP) partners returned to power with a thin 10-seat majority, 124 seats fewer than before.

The Social Democrats managed 36.4 per cent, an improvement on 1990 but still its second worst result since 1961.

The Christian Democrats' problems are essentially twofold, observers say.

Its support among women voters is the lowest of all the

parties and young women are drifting away to vote for the ecologist greens.

With Mr. Kohl having already announced he will not stand in the next election in 1998, party strategists are faced with the dilemma of how to "change Kohl voters into CDU voters," as one party official has put it.

In a first step, the Christian Democrats agreed on Monday to try out a quota giving one-third of party posts to women. Mr. Kohl, battling stiff traditionalist opposition, said: "The image of the CDU is coloured by how it deals with changes in society."

The conservative daily Die Welt remarked that this represented the first stage of Mr.

Kohl's strategy to set the party on a course "reaching beyond his own term in office."

The Social Democrats, meanwhile, are haunted by the thought that they may not be able to break through a support ceiling around 36 per cent unless they open up to brand-new voter groups — mostly in the centre of the political spectrum.

Mr. Scharping told the Seeheim group on the party's right over the weekend that the Social Democrats risked surrendering themes of welfare reform and economic modernisation to the CDU if they did not drop some left-wing inhibitions about tack-

ling them. The Social Democrats had to embrace pragmatic policies, including controversial subjects like battling welfare fraud — usually a conservative battle cry.

The call sparked patchy bursts of anger, mostly from the left wing of the party, but it suited the palates of many on the more pragmatic right.

"The myth of the Workers' Party must finally disappear if the SPD wants to become an enlightened, modern party," said Klaus von Dohnanyi, the charismatic former SPD mayor of Hamburg, in an article for Der Spiegel news magazine.

Our children deserve better literature

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Having finished reading a story entitled *The Brothers* by a Swedish author and translated into Arabic by Dr. Walid Seif, Catherine, a little girl, said that she was deeply impressed by the contents.

The 10-year-old girl said that the book provided answers to many questions that were on her little mind all the time, related to the issue of life after death.

The book provided ideas that are not found in Arabic tales and had enriched her knowledge a great deal, said Catherine.

Indeed, the little girl's answer raised the question of literary writings for children in the Arab World. It is to be admitted that children's literature is often supplied by writers who are not specialised in children's literature but rather by men of letters who tried but failed to become novelists and narrators and have chosen to write for children something which normally escapes criticism and security on serious evaluation by specialists.

Nuna Zreikat, who currently supervises a pilot project for the "Arab child book" in Stockholm, Sweden, asked: "How can a writer who had missed a happy childhood life write for children?"

"Childhood in the Arab countries is shameful

indeed," said Mrs. Zreikat who related numerous examples of children turning adults at an early age because they are often cared for by a widow or

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

because they come from large families where children's needs are often neglected or improperly responded to.

Mrs. Zreikat cited her own life as an example, explaining that she herself was forced to do the housework at the early age of seven.

Childhood in Mrs. Zreikat's view, is a mixture of trouble-making and innocent child behaviour.

"But these are taboo in the Arab World. We bring up our children expecting from them blind obedience to adults who practice dictatorial powers on children. Hence we do not expect someone who himself underwent such oppression as a child to produce something positive for the children when he grows up," Mrs. Zreikat said.

She said there is no ready-made recipe for literary writing for children, noting that such subject cannot be tackled without preparation but rather ample and thorough and specialised academic study.

"Some universities have already started awarding

post-graduate degrees for child literary writing but unfortunately in the Arab World students of education and psychology study mere theories that are far from reality and have nothing to do with childhood," Mrs. Zreikat said.

In examining successful world children's books we find that they are so popular among children because they are illustrated with colour sketches and pictures which help to convey the message of the story to the child.

For religious or historic reasons sketching and drawing in Arab World Books have not been developed and often one finds the features of a person's face blurred. Expressions on the face of characters are important elements which reflect the sentiments and feelings and therefore they contribute to the story's success.

Mrs. Zreikat does not agree with the idea that the world children's literature does not suit Arab children because of differences in social and cultural environment. "We believe in the existence of a universal child — that is we believe that children have so much in common which have priority over economic, ethnic, social and other considerations."

"All children share the need and desire for affection, tenderness and giving; and they all need to see their personalities respected and their individual ideas considered," Mrs. Zreikat said.

She noted that each age group of children has its own needs, and is impressed by certain types of drawings and sketches and by certain terms and language.

She insisted that even at the childhood level children's books should consecrate and teach classical Arabic so that children's language skills can be developed from the early age.

Mrs. Zreikat blamed the common and colloquial Egyptian dialect used in theatre and the movies for the damage done to the Arabic language.

"Had the Egyptian plays and movies been presented in classical Arabic since the 1930s, the Arab children and adults watching them today would all be using classical Arabic," Mrs. Zreikat said, noting that the Egyptian culture and arts have had their overwhelming influence on all Arab countries.

"Language is an integral part of the national identity and therefore due care ought to be given to it," she stressed.

In Sweden a country of eight million people, a language academy controls and monitors the language as well as all translations and entries from



Muna Zreikat

other languages," Mrs. Zreikat noted.

She suggested that since their early childhood, boys and girls should be taught to read literary texts in classical Arabic, a practice which would soon be transmitted to the children's every day language.

"The responsibility lies with those in charge of imparting culture and language to the children in the Arab countries. These officials hold positions in information and cultural departments who more often than not have no real respect for the book and who regrettably are not concerned about child literature," Mrs. Zreikat said.

Mrs. Zreikat, a Jordanian living in Sweden, has founded a non profit centre there where she has been translating a great number of children's books into Arabic in cooperation with other expatriate Jordanian writers.



Some of the translated children's books on display in Sweden

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

New game in town: Shuffling press cards

When Akher Khabar is forced to stop the presses, a financially strapped Sawt Al Shaab is looking for a bail-out, and Al Aswaq is seeking to expand its circulation westward, powerful individuals as well as power centres such as banks and industries smell opportunity. What better way is there to acquire influence in the media than to own a newspaper?

According to Editor-in-Chief Bassim Sakijha, the troubles at Akher Khabar, which went out of circulation more than a month ago having been in the market as a tabloid evening daily for several months before, were executive. "We had differences with the paper's chairman, Assad Abdul Rahman," Sakijha said without elaborating. "But we have established a new company, excluding some of the previous shareholders, and we are going to reprint within two weeks," he promised.

Sakijha said his newspaper has been able to raise new capital of around JD 700,000, primarily through the Amman Bank for Investments, run by Maher Shukri and Hani Qaqish. He said that judging from the previous experience, he believes the new capital will suffice to restart the paper particularly since the copies are printed at the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i and Jordan Times) saving the company the expense of purchasing a printing press.

Sakijha said, he expects the colour-illustrated evening daily, with a circulation he put at about 15,000, will increase its readership. "We are on computer system which allows us to use a modem to print in the West Bank via an office in Ramallah," he said in talking about expansion plans.

Asked to comment, Dr. Abdul Rahman, who until its liquidation was board chairman of the Akher Khabar public corporation (which is a different entity from the Akher Khabar Foundation, a private venture owned by Sakijha), said: "I would have preferred not to respond to Mr. Sakijha's untruthful statement, simply because he was not even an eligible shareholder, but since he insists on opening old wounds, I feel I must speak out."

"Yes there were differences," Dr. Abdul Rahman confirmed, "not only with me as the chairman, but with the majority of the members of the board and the majority of the shareholders who supported me. It was these shareholders who elected us to get back JD 390,000 of their money illegally confiscated by the Amman Bank for Investment." According to Dr. Abdul Rahman, "some of the founders of the would-be company felt they were unwittingly lured into a questionable scheme," and when that was discovered, they "sought a free and amiable liquidation of the company so that everyone would get his money back plus some bank interest." He added that "it was thanks to the positive efforts exerted by Minister of Industry Rima Khalaf, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Said Nabulsi, as well as the positive attitude of Dr. Shukri (which led to the bank's decision to return our money) that we were successful."

He said, "the majority of the board under my leadership managed to get back what was unjustly taken of our company's money and consequently fulfilled the board's promise to the majority of the shareholders. All of these facts," said Dr. Abdul Rahman, "were included in the report submitted by

the majority of the members of the board in front of 84 per cent of the total number of shareholders at an extraordinary meeting called on Nov. 21." He said that the meeting was recorded on video cassette and added that "should there be any new lies about this company, I shall then resort to full disclosure supported with the necessary official documents."

Dr. Abdul Rahman concluded by saying, "as to Mr. Sakijha's efforts to republish his newspaper, I cannot but wish him the best."

Across Press Street, Chairman of the Board of Al Aswaq daily Sufian Sartawi said that at his newspaper there was some share trading activity within the company proper, but talk of large investments by private businesspersons was at this stage just that — talk. Sartawi who is also general manager of Jordan-Kuwait Bank admitted, though, that "the picture is still unclear." He said he expects that any possible new purchases of shares from outside the newspaper will be settled very soon. To the question of the likelihood of the paper's expansion, he said: "Of course, and we will make more investments," such as the purchase of a new press, which would free the company from printing at the Sawt Al Shaab press. Sartawi also confirmed that the paper plans to start distribution in the West Bank as well.

In the midst of the country's economic restructuring programme designed by International Monetary Fund experts who frown upon state-owned enterprises, Sawt Al Shaab Chairman Abdul Hay Majali confirmed that an offer has been made to buy the 64 per cent government-share in the newspaper. But, happy with the new management of the paper and confident that both it and the paper's profitable high-tech printing press service can "slowly work their way to success," Majali said that he has called a shareholders meeting today (Thursday) at 5:00 p.m. at which he intends to put the sale of the newspaper to a vote. According to Majali the problem with the enterprise is that the government annually changes the composition of the board of directors. He said he wrote to Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh on the need to increase the paper's capital from JD 2 million to JD 3.5 million, "but the government wants to sell the company." Majali, who is the brother of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Lower House Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, said he hopes the shareholders will prefer not to sell. He said he is optimistic about the company's future because with extra capital, his newspaper can have a lucrative printing service that accommodates the needs of publications such as Al Bilad, Al Sabeel, Al Ahed, Al Jamahir and Al Aswaq, plus a JD 2 million government contract to produce the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) telephone directory for 1995.

A QUESTION OF CLARITY: There are other ways, of course, to attempt to influence — issue a statement. That is what Bahjar Abu Gharbiyeh, the chairman of a group which calls itself the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for the Confrontation of the Surrender and Normalisation treaties, did. His group's statement may be seen by some as a last-ditch effort to combat a fait accompli. Nevertheless, in it Mr. Abu Gharbiyeh, a respected veteran of the 1936 uprising, urges various newspapers, the Jordan Times included, "not to accept advertisements prom-



oting dealings with the Zionist enemy in various fields based on the national popular view." But when he goes on to say that the Jordan Press Association (JPA), "has issued a clear statement against normalising relations with the Zionist enemy in conformity with the stand of our people against everything that is Zionist" the JPA, without commenting, simply referred us to its Aug. 17, 1994 statement, the clarity of which is disputed to date. That statement said the JPA respects all laws of the boycott of Israel until the total liberation of Arab lands. But it also said that JPA members should cover news and attend conferences and meetings (presumably involving Israel or Israelis) that are open and declared in advance.

ANOTHER STATEMENT: Meanwhile, JPA President Suleiman Qudah issued a statement to members informing them that the Ministry of Culture would contribute to the financial obstacle to getting journalists' works published by annually allocating three of its own publications to support the literal and intellectual work of JPA members. That could be a solution to the situation brought up by one JPA member, who was not authorised to speak on behalf of the association, at a JPA meeting with the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture who had just concluded a week-long visit to the Kingdom. Just as the meeting was about to come to a successful close, and to the sudden discomfiture of Qudah, one JPA member stood and appealed to the visiting minister for assistance (presumably financial) for the cash-strapped association. Although Qudah stepped in to rescue the hour and turn a certain embarrassment into a "never you mind him" ending, it may be that striking up this deal with the Ministry of Culture here would work to deter any further such supplications.

AN EYE FOR QUALITY: If experience is the best teacher, merchants could learn much from tour guides, particularly in the nascent arena of Israeli tourism to the Kingdom. One such guide, and still a novice, told the Jordan Times that he was hired privately by an Israeli couple in their early 40s to show them some of the Kingdom's ancient sites and help them get in a little shopping. As it turned out, their shopping spree in Irbid and Amman came to a rounded off total of JD 1,000 in clothing purchases. According to the young tour guide, Mohammad Kheir, the couple took their time searching for "quality at a good price." He said they found the prices of clothing here (including Jordanian manufactured and imported items) were considerably lower than in Israel.

Not interested in oriental souvenirs, unless they are particular to Jordan and cannot be found west of the Jordan River, the couple, who admitted to Mohammad that they were initially somewhat wary of how they would be received in Jordan, said they were delighted with their "bargain" trip. Arranged by Al Afifi Tours, one of Jordan's oldest travel agencies which used to operate a bus service from Tel Aviv to Amman and Irbid prior to 1948, the five-day, four-night package including round-trip bus transportation (Israel-Jordan) and 4 nights accommodation with breakfast at the Forte Grand Hotel came to but \$270 per person, according to the couple.

Fears dissipated, the couple, who did bring along one of those handy electric heating coils to make instant coffee, felt free to complain about the food at a Jerash restaurant (name was lost on them), but said their gastronomic experience at Amman's Reema Al Bawadi Restaurant saved the trip. The tour guide said the couple confided in him that if the food was to be anything like the meal they ate in Jerash, they were prepared to cancel their trip.

Jennifer Hamarneh

The IBM and the Mac — episode 3

By Jean-Claude Elias

The comparison between the IBM-compatible and the Apple Macintosh computers continues unabated. It is interesting to note that most of the time, the criticism goes from Mac fanatics to IBM lovers and not the other way round. The latter usually claim that the first have developed a superiority complex. The reason, probably, is the following: While the Mac is produced by just one company, Apple, tens (or is it now hundreds?) of manufacturers make IBM-compatible PCs. Apple users therefore feel they have to defend themselves more aggressively. The Mac market share, world-wide, is 20 per cent approximately.

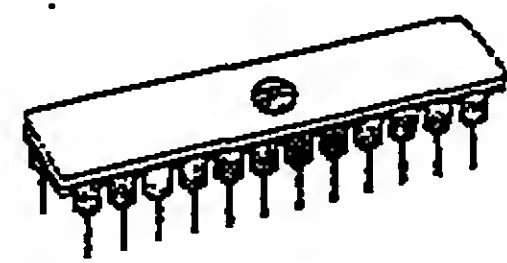
The launching earlier this year of the Power Mac that lets operators run both Microsoft DOS, i.e. the IBM system, and Apple operating systems, has not made much progress in uniting the contenders. Intended to allow computer users to benefit from both designs, it still runs the DOS in an "emulation mode" that is to say in a simulated way. In plain English, this means that it does it very slowly, much slower than an original IBM-compatible hardware would.

Browsing through recent British and American specialised publications, one can notice that the "Mac versus IBM" criticism focuses on the assessment that the IBM has, by design, very poor sound and music capabilities and that its Windows operating system is but a pale, reduced, crippled copy of the Mac's original concept. The "IBM versus Mac" point is that the Macintosh high price tag is not always justified and one would be stuck with just one supplier who will dictate his pricing conditions for future options and upgrades.

In the meantime and while users, specialists and manufacturers discuss the issue, a host of medium size manufacturers are selling several additions and upgrades for the IBM-compatible machine, in view of bringing it closer, technically speaking, to the Mac. Naturally these additions mainly aim at giving the IBM better sound possibilities and faster Windows, while swelling their manufacturers' profit.

For appetizers, one can choose from a wide palette of "Windows Accelerators." These are small electronic cards one can insert in the empty slots of a PC

chip talk



cabinet. They usually replace the standard display adaptor (screen controller circuit) that comes with the machine. Once fitted with such a card, the PC can run Windows much faster. The drawings and all the software that works in graphic mode (all Windows-based programmes) benefit tremendously from such a boost. While the Mac was originally designed as a graphic system, the IBM started as a text-based computer, hence its relative handicap in running graphic applications.

The second set of add-ons for the IBM is the very popular sound card. From Sound Blaster to Sound Galaxy and Turtle Beach (note how exotic the names), put one in your compatible PC and watch it play realistic music. Recently a dozen companies have joined the above mentioned three in designing sound cards. Playing games that sing, talk, or composing multi-track instrumental music with symphonic complexity is not the monopoly of the Mac anymore.

Here again, some will say that add-ons that make up for congenial weaknesses will never be like the real, original thoroughbred. Others will say that, on the contrary, they are very practical and allow for greater flexibility. That's democracy in the information technology world.

Whatever the technical arguments in favour or against one system, one thing is certain: Mac users think it's the absolute machine and IBM users swear they would never trade their computer for a Mac. That should be enough indication that, notwithstanding the differences, both systems allow us to do the same work and reach the same goal, even though the scenery along the way of the average driving speed may slightly vary.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

STRANGE BUT TRUE

★ During his normal life, man breathes 470,000,000 times, moves his eyelids 330,000,000 times and —constricts his fingers 250,000,000 times.

★ ★ ★

★ An Indian whistled continuously for 45 hours and twenty minutes.

★ ★ ★

★ In England, a law was promulgated in 1865 limiting the speed of vehicles run by steam to 4 mph.

★ ★ ★

★ The White ant queen continues to live until it reaches the age of 50.

★ ★ ★

★ An Australian typist could type the numbers beginning from 1 to 370,000 on 14,500 papers with a month.

★ ★ ★

★ An Indian succeeded in learning by heart the first 31,811 numbers included in the logarithmic table.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

At the Hotel

— At which hotel are you going to stay?
Fee ayy fondok tanwil iqama?
— I haven't decided yet.
Lam oqarrir hattal'aan
— Which is the best hotel you recommend?

Ayy fondok toosi behi?
— I think the Summit is the best.

Atakid anna fondok Summit howal-afdal.
— How long do you intend to stay?

Kam al-modda allati tanwi iqamataha?
— Your passport, please. Jawaz safarek, min fadlek.
— Here you are.
Ha howa

— Room No. 60. This the key. You're welcome in Jordan.

Ghorfa rakam sit'teen. Haza howal-miftah. Marhaban beka fil-ordon.
— Thank you very much.
Shukran jazzeelan.

— What about the luggage?

Wamaza bekhoos al-amte'a?

— The lift-operator will take it up.

Sawfa ya'khozha aamil al-mis'ad ela a'la.

— Is there a telephone in the room?

Hal yoojad hatif fil-ghorfa.

— It's well equipped with everything.

Innaha muzawwada bekolli shayy.

TIME FOR FUN

★ THE HOTEL MANAGER was greatly surprised when John Rockefeller, the famous American millionaire, asked him to reserve the cheapest room in the hotel for him.

"But your son, sir, rents the most luxurious rooms when he stays here," said the manager in apparent gloominess.

"My son, has a wealthy father, but I have not," answered the millionaire in a broad, quiet smile.

★ ★ ★

★ VICTOR HUGO, one of the most prominent figures in French literature, was once invited to have

supper with a French family with whom he had recently made acquaintance.

Such a strange appetite did the man have that the housewife felt thunderstruck and congratulated him for that.

Hugo was so embarrassed that he could tactfully get rid of his embarrassment by saying, "Had I known you before, madam, I would have had greater appetite."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Freon is associated with...

- a- treatment
- b- refrigerators
- c- nuclear explosion
- d- television

2. Name the currency of Norway.

- a- Krone
- b- Escudo
- c- Lek
- d- Peso

3. Radon is...

- a- a fire extinguisher
- b- a nobel gas
- c- a detergent
- d- an explosive

4. Basketball was first played in...

- a- Spain
- b- South Africa
- c- Burma
- d- USA

5. Eudiometer is an instrument...

- a- used in aircraft to determine the height.
- b- for continuous recording of atmospheric pressure.
- c- employed to measure heart beat.
- d- for measuring volume changes in chemical reactions involving gases.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

DAWN: A clear sunny dawn predicts some splendid new opportunity on your horizon, but a gray or rainy dawn suggests some trials to be overcome.

★ ★ ★

DARKNESS: Be prepared for a setback; however, if you managed to grope your way to the light, you will achieve great success. If you were walking in the dark, you will recover something you had given up for lost.

★ ★ ★

DEATH: If you dreamt of being dead yourself, it indicates an approaching release from all your worries and/or a recovery from illness. If you spoke with someone who is dead, you will soon hear very good news. To dream of a death frequently signifies news of a birth. To be aware of a dead person you cannot identify portends an inheritance which may not be personal but could be indirectly beneficial.

PERPLEXITIES

Word Hunt

At least 17 words of four letters or more can be formed from the word PRAISE.

How many can you find?
1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5..... 6..... 7.....
8..... 9..... 10..... 11..... 12..... 13..... 14.....
15..... 16..... 17.....

A pain in the arts

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Bill Gates, founder of the computer software giant, Microsoft, has a vision of the future, of a computer community, the Net, the open electronic system that covers the world. On-line information services consist of powerful computers with vast banks of data that can be tapped into by anyone with a home computer, a telephone line and a "modem." Modems are little boxes that allow a computer to send and receive signals down the line. Gates also has a vision of the future of art.

Gates's newest company is to make many of the world's greatest works of art available on the information highway. He proposes to take away the need for visiting museums, to make the labels (the tiny labels next to paintings) all-talking, all-moving. And at the same time to refer the user to other material. To do this, Gates has set up a private company, Continuum, and has bought the licensing rights to hundreds of thousands of images, from a number of world-famous museums including the National Gallery in London, the Barnes Collection in America and the State Russian Museum, as well as from scores of individuals photographers, historical archives and private collections.

The images will be available to all those with CD-Rom drives, schools, universities and colleges,

newspapers, magazines and individuals. The way millions of people look at art will be changed. The student writing an essay on Matisse will also be told that Continuum has a photograph of the artist, and information about the period in which he lived.

The staff at Continuum have already joined forces with an American audio-guide producer to devise a portable CD-Rom guide of all of a museum's exhibits. Every visitor would be able to hire a Walkman-like machine with a CD-Rom and a pair of headphones on it. Unlike normal cassette guides it is non-sequential and can store hundreds of hours of sound. These guides can be switched on instantly to describe any exhibit, with the descriptions in many cases enhanced by sound effects and music.

It remains to be seen whether digitised images would encourage or discourage young people from visiting art galleries.

Continuum envisages that the demand that will come from CD-Rom, then on-line publishing, then home and business computers, is only the first strand of their business. The second strand is product development, producing themed topics for reference and entertainment. There will, for example, be an Africa database, with paintings, sculpture, photographs and historical material, all digitised. There might also be an electronic travel guide since you could include far more pictures than in a conventional book.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 1

7:33 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

Brooklyn And The Beast

Bonetti is taken into custody after he falls victim to a conspiracy which aims at digging up his past records.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Hearst And Davies Affair

Starring: Robert Mitchum & Virginia Madsen

The story of a wealthy businessman who develops a strong love affair with a charming dancer. When the wheel of fortune throws him to get shackled in the chains of bankruptcy and debt, love rises to be his only saviour.

12:00 The Investigator

Cop Conny

A gang of smugglers is pursued by the police after being charged with stealing valuable antiquities.

Friday, Dec. 2

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:00 African Skies

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

A man along with his wife and little son is rescued after his house flooded.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Blanche leaves to Montreal where she decides to pursue her higher studies.

11:35 Never The Twain

After the mother refuses him as a suitable husband for her daughter, Oliver is left with no other choice but to kidnap his bride.

Saturday, Dec. 3

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons

8:00 Combating AIDS

8:30 Quantum Leap

Killing Time

Sam travels back in time to assume the character of a killer who holds a mother and her daughter hostage.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

The Return Of Preston Giles

A man who runs a big publishing house is arrested and taken to prison after being charged with murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fire Storm

Starring: Levan Burton & Clay Bourgh

A considerable loss in lives and property occurs after a big fire breaks out in Oakland.

12:00 Major Dad

Major Dad decides to marry off a lady who causes considerable chaos in the navy headquarters.

Sunday, Dec. 4

7:30 McHale's Navy

8:00 The Phantom Horsemen

A boy flees the British soldiers who have imprisoned his mother and decides to hide in the wood where he gains many allies.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Galactica

Space Groppers

The people of Galactica face a lot of trouble on Earth after their space farms get completely annihilated.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scarlett

Scarlett decides to leave to London where her entire life tumbles over in an atmosphere of moral corruption and destructive wickedness.

11:50 International Ballet

Monday, Dec. 5

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diner

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:15 Shades Of L.A.

The Wrong Man

Detective Michael, aided by an apparition, saves a man from capital punishment after he is mistakenly apprehended.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Headhunters

Tuesday, Dec. 6

7:30 The F.B.I.: The Untold Stories

8:00 World Echo

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Elliott

Daniel accepts a scholarship to study painting in Paris. Eve, his new wife, decides to accompany him.

11:10 Fly By Night

Point Of No Return

The Slick Air leaps in to protect a French prince from conspirators planning to overthrow his regime.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

7:30 Coach

8:00 Life In The Freezer

8:30 Quantum Leap

(Cont. of Tuesday's episode)

9:10 Law And Order

Wedded Bliss

The police investigates the murder of a Mexican couple who work at a clothes factory.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Savage Land

Matt aided by both his son and nephew leaps in to protect a man whose wife is arrested by a crooked trooper after being charged with murder.

11:10 Coming Of Age

Mush minus blush — Kuwait tunes in to romance

By William MacLean
Reuters

KUWAIT — Bad Boy wants forgiveness from Nabehla. Ahmad wishes Cupcake a happy anniversary. Secret Admirer would like Badriya to know he cares.

A new English-language radio station is taking Kuwait's lovesick youth by storm with a show on which sweethearts dedicate songs and call to discuss hot topics like arranged marriage.

The 2½-hour Monday evening Loveline is a bold step for this conservative society where many marriages are arranged and unsupervised contact be-

tween unrelated boys and girls is rare.

The show may also be heard in many Gulf states, including ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, and regularly takes calls and dedications from listeners in these neighbouring countries.

Kuwaiti youngsters who once relied on stealth to communicate with sweethearts now simply call the state-owned superstation on FM 99.7 and dedicate a song.

The lovelorn can bare their souls about the cruelty of separation or parental intolerance to sympathetic, American-accented presenter Tala Al Yagout.

One such is Abdul Hadi, who speaks like a New Yorker and believes others could learn from his story.

"I made a mistake once, and I would like to share it with you. Once there was the most beautiful girl in the world and I just let a chance go away because of immature actions," he told Yagout.

"I'd just like to say I'm sorry and please never forget me. And I don't know how to say this, but if I had another chance to talk to her I would be grateful."

Yagout, touching on his favourite theme, replies: "But Hadi, good things come along only once in life, and maybe you mis-

sed your chance. So I agree with you. Love should not be fooled around with. Love is no game."

The need for discretion and a measure of decorum means the Loveline is no carbon copy of a Western rock station.

Callers mostly respect the first-names-only policy when making dedications — cute nicknames are often used — and generally language is modest.

Teenagers send dedications to parents and sometimes beg forgiveness for acts of naughtiness. Husband and wife dedications are common. Teenagers profess traditional values. "If my parents disagree

with me about the one I love, I won't get married to him because that will make some problems in the family," declared a caller named Munira.

But the general impression is decidedly Western, and the station launched in August and its Kuwaiti presenters, have also won a big following among Western troops who deployed here last month amid heightened tension with Iraq.

"We forget we're in Kuwait," Yagout, who is also station manager, told Reuters. "We think we're in the U.S. or Europe. The station has opened the door and taken people outside."

"The Loveline is my per-

sonal show. I try to direct the callers in the right path from my experience," said Yagout, a U.S.-educated former oil executive.

"I want people to think deeply about the consequences of a relationship... broken hearts, marriage, and divorce — hopefully with time we'll have a psychologist sitting in on the programme to talk about these issues," Yagout said.

The station as a whole, with its round-the-clock diet of Western pop, reggae and rap and its English-language policy for both Disc Jockeys and callers, reminds Kuwaitis educated in the West of freer, more carefree times

when they were studying out of reach of strict parents and nosy siblings.

Calls come in from as far away as the United States and Europe during a number of programmes the station broadcasts internationally for Kuwaitis studying overseas.

The station's target market is 17 to 30-year-olds — the group that until August often had to devise elaborate stratagems to communicate with the opposite sex. Some still do.

Some teenagers hang around supermarkets looking for a date. In a well-known ritual, a boy or girl will scrawl a message or pager number on notepaper which they

stick on a can while somehow making eye contact with the object of their devotion.

They will then discreetly move off, and the prospective sweetheart comes to retrieve the message.

Sometimes this strategy works but others are not so subtle.

Some youths drive fast cars on a seashore boulevard with signs in English like "be mine" on the back windscreen — even though car stickers are banned.

Others steer their car dangerously close to any young woman they find driving alone and leer at her.

Middle-aged Japanese men urged to get a life

TOKYO (R) — Japan's workaholic middle-aged men should get out of the office and get a life, the government has recommended.

In its annual review of the country's lifestyles, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Japanese men were short on leisure time and friends outside the workplace, and had ignored their families for far too long.

"We are working on improving the conditions, but it's up to each individual to find life outside work," Makoto Kondo, director of the EPA's Social Research Division, told a briefing on the report.

If they do not learn to enjoy life outside company circles, the baby-boomers, now mostly in their 40s, will face a major personal crisis by the time they reach retirement, Kondo said.

Many retired men, the EPA report said, become that is popularly known as "wet autumn leaves" of the "me-too tribe". They earn the name because they tend to cling like damp, dead leaves to more independent family members, especially their wives. They beg to join family activities they have neglected for years for fear of being left alone at home.

Most of these men started working in the early 1970s, when Japan was trying to catch up with the West.

They were taught to



Annual review finds Japanese men have ignored their families far too long

sacrifice themselves for their companies and for the sake of Japan's high economic growth, the report said.

The EPA's annual report also focused on the problems Japan faces as its society ages rapidly.

It said that while the situation may not be as pressing nor as acute as that in some European countries, the consequences may be just as daunting.

Because of the world's longest average life expectancy, Japan will become the oldest industrial nation by the turn of the century, according to United Nations forecasts.

By the year 2040, the United Nations predicts, Japan will have twice as many senior citizens as it does today. Currently 14 per cent of the Japanese population is 65 or older.

The ratio of taxpayers supporting pensioners is expected to drop to two to one by 2040 from around six to one now.

Japanese women can on average expect to live until the age of 82.51. Men have a life expectancy of 76.25, Health and Welfare Ministry data show.

The EPA paper says there is room for improvement in Japan's social services and employment facilities for retired citizens. But the government's main goal, it stresses, is to help old people "live independence and fulfilling lives."

"Men who had scant interests outside work lose their raison d'être at retirement," said Michiko Mukuno, a researcher at a semi-private body for the aged.

"Some aggravate latent marital problems and

most are prone to disregard their health," said Ms. Mukuno, of the Foundation of Senior Life Enrichment.

According to the foundation, 47.8 per cent of some 1,000 working middle-aged men polled said they felt their lives were fulfilled only when they were engrossed in work.

Only 5.5 per cent of respondents said they felt the same way when spending time with their families.

"Once they become wet autumn leaves, they are not likely to change," Ms. Mukuno said. "Middle-aged men should get out of the office, develop hobbies, perhaps go to night classes, or enroll in volunteer organisations while they are still active members of the society," she added.

Lazy Japanese men blamed for falling birth rate

TOKYO (R) — Going forth to multiply with a cozier who never helps around the house is such a small prospect for Japanese women that they are staying single, delaying marriage and bringing down the nation's birth rate.

Working women, the government's Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said, are loath to marry the stereotypical male whose role is little more than bringing home the paycheck.

In its annual report on the national lifestyle, the agency said that to improve their shoddy image, Japanese men should learn to participate more around the house and especially in their children's education.

The report, which focuses on the causes, trends and problems of Japan's ageing population, cites marriages and the increasing number of single people as the main causes behind the relentless drop in the nation's birth rate.

While a typical Japanese woman in 1993 gave birth to 1.46 children in her lifetime, in 1970 this figure was 2.13, according to the Ministry of Wel-

fare. In 2025 the figure will rise only slightly to 1.8, the ministry said.

Women, however, now marry on average at the age of 26.1, according to the EPA. In 1955, the average age was 23.8.

The figure is particularly worrying for the government, which is concerned about the rapid greying of Japanese society and the adverse effect this is having on public finances.

But for Japanese men, old habits could be hard to break. Another recent government survey said 85.8 per cent, including unmarried men, have never lifted finger to help with household chores.

Similar surveys in the U.S. and Britain showed that 37.9 and 51.7 per cent of men, respectively, were as uncooperative.

While average Japanese working women put in about seven hours of office work per day against four hours of housework, their counterparts are said to work 10.5 hours a day and spend less than half an hour around the house, the EPA said.

The traditional view of a woman should be

married at the latest by the age of 24 has also eroded.

Though women past that age are still sometimes called "Christmas cakes" — because they are past their "sell-by date" of the 25th — the stigma is weakening.

"Women, since the late seventies, have idealised being free and single for as long as possible, and that ideal is as strong as ever," Yoriko Madoka, lawmaker and author of a number of books on women's issues, told Reuters.

"Women, especially those with working experience, are disillusioned with the kind of marriage common in Japan, where they are stuck at home bringing up the children and doing the housework while their husbands are out most of the time," she said. "Many young women wish to avoid this kind of marriage."

But the ideal is often overshadowed by reality. "The reality in Japan is that the culture and institutions — legal, health care, and tax systems — are still heavily in favour of married couples," Ms. Madoka said.

"Women, though powerful in their roles as housewives, are still socially the weaker sex," she said. "In the end, all (of them) tie the knot."

Women are especially cautious about being stuck in an unwanted union, given the lingering taboo still surrounding the concept of divorce in Japan.

"There's been a certain breakdown in the taboo, because fifteen years ago a woman would not dare even mention casually that she had divorced," Ms. Madoka said.

But an older Japanese wife would still prefer to wait for widowhood rather than divorce a distanced husband, because too many social and institutional biases work against older, divorced and working women, she said.

"Most divorcees these days are young women in their 20s and 30s — those who can still find jobs and are less likely to have children to take care of," she added.

According to the latest divorce registers at the Health Ministry, 188,297 couples cut the knot in 1993, nearly double the number in 1975.

The phenomenon of Israeliness

Israel: Politics, Myths And Identity Crises

By Akiva Orr

Pluto Press, London 1994, £35/£10.95(pb)

This book is a collection of 14 essays, ranging in length from three to 25 pages, eight of which were published between 1972 and 1990. What strikes the reader is the unevenness of the pieces in tone and subject matter, and the lack of focus. The volume could, and should, have been much better organised, with some pieces eliminated and repetitions avoided. The longest essay, on "the Kastner case," seems totally out of place and unintelligible, at least to this reviewer.

There are really three topics in these essays: Jewish identity; Israeli society; and ethnicity and nationalism. The discussion of the first and last of these is certainly enlightening. The unique and anomalous nature of contemporary Jewish identity is lucidly analysed. The unique and anomalous nature of Israeli society, due to its origins and development, is dealt with less successfully.

The author introduces the phenomenon of Israeliness, made up of the elements of Hebrew as a mother tongue, atheism, modernity and the lack of minority complexes. The issue is what percentage of the Israeli population fits the definition. According to the best surveys, it is probably about 35 per cent today, still a minority. Orr notes that Yitzhak Rabin fits the definition of Israeliness, which may have something

to do with his current role. One fact that Orr seems unaware of is that most Israelis support Zionist ideology.

Regarding ethnicity and nationalism, the author presents a nuanced position of fighting any form of discrimination based on ethnicity, while at the same time being opposed to political units based on ethnicity. The ideal presented here is that of separating religion, race and ethnicity from the state. While the first two elements in this idea seem to be universally accepted, the separation of ethnicity from the state still seems like a radical idea in most nations.

BOOK REVIEW

Despite the problems noted above, there is nevertheless an evenness and uniqueness of voice in this book. The style is always clear and incisive. The author writes in a very personal and very honest way, and the reader may get a good impression of his consistent and principled stance over the years. He defines himself as an "Israeli anthropocentric socialist" (a founding member of the Matzpen group), and as such he is committed to the idea of a democratic, secular state for Israelis and Palestinians. The whole book can be read as an elaboration of this viewpoint — Middle East International.

Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi

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William Shatner says farewell to Captain Kirk

By Stephen Schaefer
Reuter

NEW YORK — A philosophical William Shatner voices "regret and sorrow that I have to say goodbye to a character I've enjoyed playing."

He's discussing, of course, his alter ego for the past 28 years, Captain James Tiberius Kirk, who beams up for his final space trip in the film *Star Trek: Generations*.

At 63, Shatner and the original crew of the *Starship Enterprise* are to be replaced by a younger crew, led by Patrick Stewart as *Enterprise* Captain Jean-Luc Picard, and the stars of the recently cancelled *Star Trek: The New Generation* TV series. This crew's mission is to carry the highly profitable big-screen *Star Trek* series into the 21st century.

In *Generations*, the seventh *Star Trek* feature, the enduring and until

now invincible Kirk passes into pop mythology, cradled in the arms of his successor on a faraway planet in the 24th century, having just travelled through a mysterious time warp.

When Shatner assumed the role of Kirk in 1966 for the series that promised to go "where no man has gone before," his boss was Lucille Ball, owner of Desilu Studios, Lyndon B. Johnson was U.S. president, the Vietnam War was raging and LSD was soon to become a familiar term. As was Kirk's "beam me up Scotty."

In those days Kirk seemed to be smitten weekly with the often pulchritudinous guest actresses clad in ancient Greek garb. "It was shameful," Shatner agrees. However, Picard is practically celibate. "That's shameful," Shatner quips.

How did Shatner and Stewart get along for this transition? "Great we're

buddies," Shatner said in a recent interview. "But he's English you know." As everyone knows by now, *Generations* has had a bumpy flight — its climactic, history-making finish had to be reshot. Confesses the star, "when I heard the news my first question was, 'as it my performance?' it wasn't."

"As written originally," he explains, "Kirk was shot in the back and Picard disposed of the villain and cradled me as I died. When the picture was tested, the group had a bad reaction. They ascertained it was the manner in which Kirk dies — as against Kirk dying — that upset them."

"Paramount, to shore up this new wave of movies they hope will continue, that contain the new cast, spent \$5 million (in a \$30 million picture) and reshot the ending," Shatner said.

But can Kirk really die? They killed off Leonard

Nimoy's pointy-eared Vulcan Spock — and brought him back. For Shatner, it's final. As he sits in a hotel restaurant, dressed dapperly in a dark brown suit with a colour-coordinated print tie, Shatner manages to be both amused and bemused by this last go-round with the character that, he knows, will dominate his obituary as it has his life.

Unlike Nimoy, who defensively penned "I am not Spock," Shatner is grateful for Kirk. Since the first *Star Trek* feature in 1979 revived his career, he has parlayed Kirk's pop culture standing into books, personal appearances and three TV series, *T.J. Hooker*, the current *Rescue 911* and, as of next January USA Cable Network, he will produce, sometimes direct and guest star in *Tek Wars*, based on his best-selling sci-fi books.

Single again after a second divorce, Shatner laughs away the recent

burst of Shatner-bashing in tell-all books by Trek veterans Michelle Nichols and George Takei.

"I think they've taken leave of their senses I've never had a cross word with either of them (although I don't know them very well). But I don't know what they're talking about."

When the talk turns to why *Star Trek* has endured, he does know. "There's the fascination of space, a universe out there with some answers that somebody's dreamed up that might — fantastically enough — be right," he says.

"And perhaps the crew are a mythological presence in this 'disposable culture', a hardy group of individuals who might reflect the Greek storytelling device of a hero and his followers in travels: An odyssey kind of thing. That supplies a need in our culture for a mythological hero who exists in the future."



The two starship captains (Kirk Stewart) are called back to duty in *Star Trek: The New Generation*

Kylie takes new lead in gay community seriously

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuter

SYDNEY — Australia's Kylie Minogue has become an icon of the country's gay community and recently showed she was taking her new role seriously by launching Australia's AIDS Awareness Week.

The country's best known actress-singer has won the hearts of the local male gay community with her dance music, flamboyant costumes and centrefold male dance troupes.

But Kylie, who is now projecting a more mature image, is not only acknowledging her gay following, but like other international celebrities is championing the fight against AIDS.

This year she performed at Australia's massive annual gay and lesbian event, the Mardi Gras, where she met two AIDS sufferers. Simon and Brenton.

At a Sydney hospice Friday, she launched Australia's AIDS Awareness Week, which includes World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, joining Madonna and Elizabeth Taylor in the global Campaign Against AIDS.

"Sadly Simon is no longer with us but I would like to thank Brenton for making that night so much more special for me," Kylie said at the launch.

"Like all of us I have come face-to-face with the prejudice against HIV and AIDS. Everyone in Australia needs to be reminded that HIV affects

us all," she said.

The 26-year-old star, once nicknamed the singing budgie since she is just 1.5 metres (4.9 ft) tall, has undergone a complete metamorphosis since 1987 when she stepped out of the costume of Charlene in the Australian soap opera *Neighbours*, where she played against childhood sweetheart Jason Donovan.

In jitterbug skirt, long hair and whiter-than-white smile she jived her way through her first single, a remake of Little Eva's *Locomotion*, which stayed at number one in the Australian charts for seven weeks.

Followed by *I Should Be Lucky*, *Je Ne Sais Pas* and *Pourquoi*, and she's got to be certain, the girl-next-door image was hard

to shake off — but Kylie persevered, and her much-publicised affair with Michael Hutchence, lead singer of Australian rock group *Inxs*, put her in a new more mature light.

Her latest single, *Confide In Me*, which has topped the charts in Britain and Australia, portrays Kylie as the vampish, dance diva, complete with tussled hair, wonderbra and lipstick coated pout.

A video of her next single, *Put Yourself In My Place*, to be released this week, shows a naked Kylie in a scene reminis-

cent from the opening of the sci-fi movie *Barbarella* starring a naked, long-haired Jane Fonda.

As well as pushing her singing career into credibility, Kylie has also continued to act, starring in two feature films. *The Delinquents* and *The Street Fighter* which will be premiered in the United States in December.

Ian Johnson from the Significant Other Marketing Consultants, a Sydney-based gay advertising and marketing agency, said Kylie became a gay icon as she shed her cuteness to

kitsh. "Her camp dance style with a strong disco backbeat appeals to the gay community which likes dance music," Johnson said.

"But also her style is quite camp with pink feathers and dancing around with muscle boys and that strong image appealed to gay communities in the late 1980s and early 1990s," he said.

"Add her rags to riches success and that's why she has had such success," Johnson said that unlike Madonna, Kylie had never

set out to attract a gay following. It just happened.

The president of the Australian Federation of AIDS Association, Tony Keenen, describes himself as a "35-year-old Kylie groupie."

"For the gay community the 1980s and 1990s have been devastating and it's fair to say we're having more than a rough trot," Keenen told Reuters.

"Kylie has been important to gays during this time as her music has been in the clubs for us to go and dance our heads off."

Zhang Yimou shoots Shanghai with Chinese funds

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese director Zhang Yimou, banned from making Sino-foreign co-productions for two years, has begun shooting his stalled film *Shanghai* after securing domestic funding, a source said Monday.

Shooting started at Tai Lake near the eastern city of Suzhou on Nov. 6, nearly two months after the originally planned date of Sept. 15, after the Shanghai Film Studio obtained a 10 million yuan (\$1.7 million) bank loan, said Wang Bin, Zhang's script producer.

UGC, one of France's biggest film production and distribution companies and the project's planned overseas partner, has now withdrawn, Wang said.

Plans to start shooting the co-production in September were scuppered after film authorities abruptly withdrew Shanghai Film Studio's year-old right to approve scripts independently and placed a two-year ban on the international award-winning director from making movies with foreign input.

The move was in retaliation for Zhang's alleged violation of regulations by letting his last film, *Lifetimes*, compete in overseas festivals before being passed by China's censors. The film won two major awards at Cannes.

Sources close to the so-called Fifth Generation director said the ban was firmly in place despite denials by China's film bureau, but added that preparations for shooting *Shanghai* have nevertheless continued.

The *South China Weekly* newspaper said in its latest issue that that shooting could no longer be delayed because reeds needed for the scene at the Tai Lake location were dying, so the studio had decided to secure its



U.S. actor Bruce Willis poses with Chinese actress Gong Li at the Cannes Film Festival. The Chinese actress received the photo)

own funds.

"Shanghai is now going very smoothly," Wang said of the film, which stars Zhang's favoured actress Gong Li and follows the tribulations of a famous singer in pre-1949 Shanghai.

Under the new deal, Zhang is to receive 100,000 yuan from Shanghai Film Studio for direction, the *South China Weekly* said, acknowledging that while this was much more than ordinary Chinese directors would be paid, it was far less than he would have earned from a co-production.

Zhang has also lost the right to choose assistant technical staff for the film, whose post-production is now to be carried out in China, Wang said.

"These changes may have some impact on the film's technical level, but we are still confident it will be a success," he said.

Most foreign-invested films are sent abroad for post-production due to the poor standards in China.

With China's domestic film industry stifled by lack of funding and heavy restrictions in creative freedom, co-productions have in recent years become a popular method

among young directors to secure funding for projects.

However, the screening of increasing numbers of such films abroad without official approval has angered Beijing, which has in the past year moved vigorously to reassert its control over the industry.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

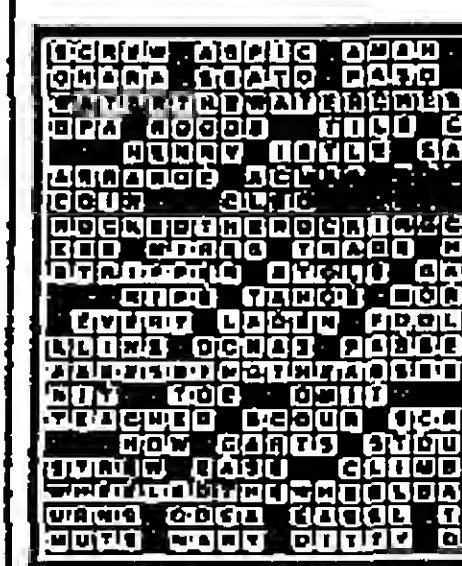
SUPER STATS
By Joan D. Herbrich

- ACROSS
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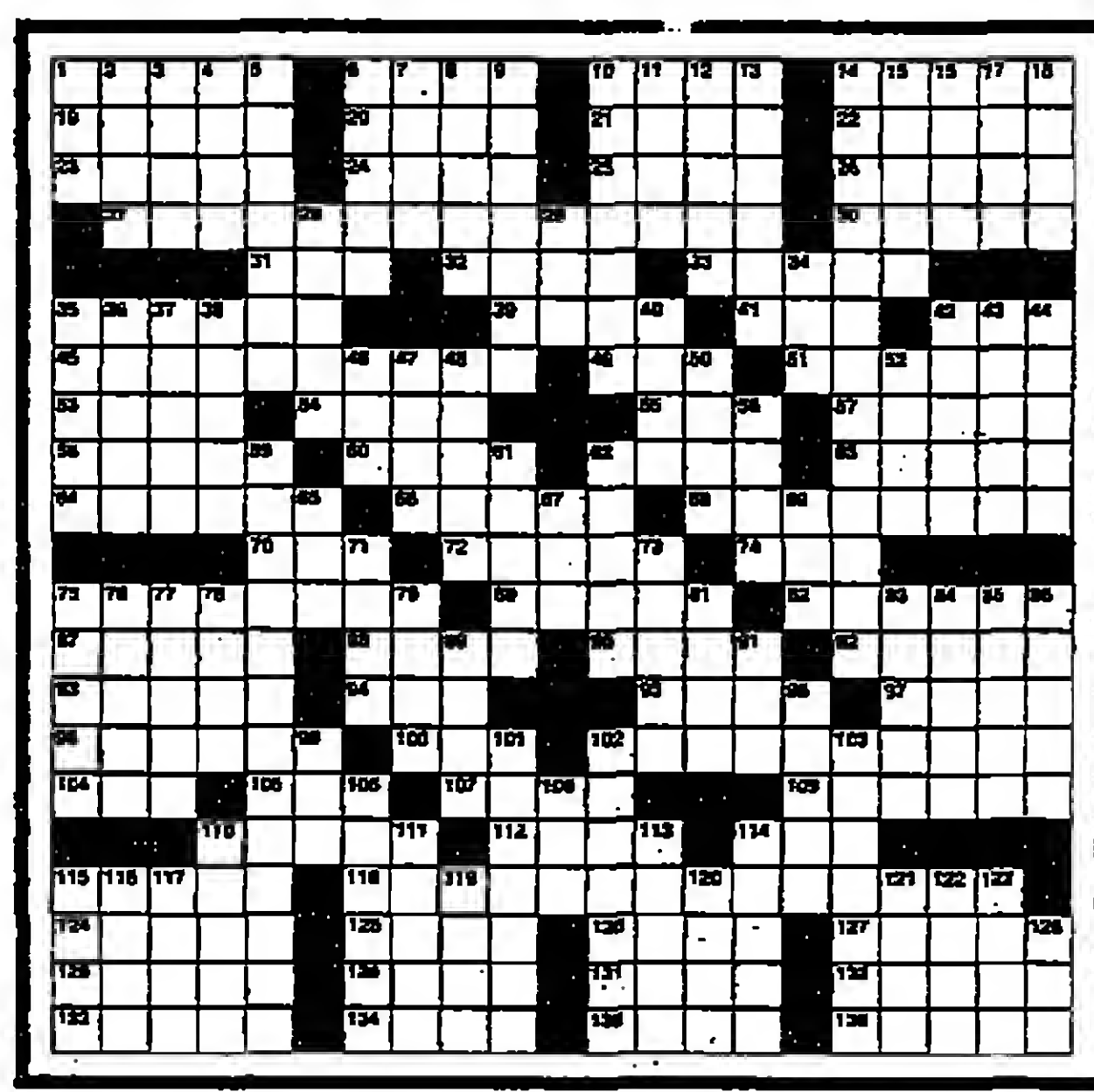
Diagramless 19 x 19
By Adam Christopher

- ACROSS
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 3. Musical sound
 4. Emphatic
 5. Afternoon social
 6. Vexes
 7. Unconscious
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 9. Laid to rest
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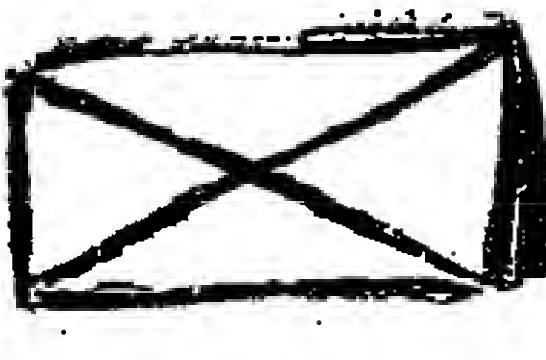
SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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- Last Week's Cryptograms
1. Boys invited to visit haunted house are greeted by their "ghost" and "ghosts."
 2. Book by astronaut about space odyssey picked up top spot on best seller list.
 3. Migratory birds on journey fly by burning marijuana field; No turn is left unturned.
 4. While some bookworms are boring, all others do think reading is better.
- CRYPTOGRAMS
1. 50QJ IW URK-FYX QXEBXELQ FLXJFQ ARQ
URQF ERLXVLEBX PI J TAYXK AIF BIE JV
LIJXQRX QFJBE. QIYX TJBH — By Earl Ireland
 2. DAWLEY P DRIPSIT EPOI LD DRIPS RANKI
BI UKWY. PXY ELDS RI RIPT P UPTOT NX
SAI UPTOT — By Ed Buddinew
 3. NERD QUERL KUY BPWFFN DPJAZA QUJEL
ZYR UJF QYFELLWAQF KJUB YAP
PEGLGJFAZ LEAQU GJZUR JA BUP ATFF. — By Rita Salvato
 4. BUE PI PS SUNS BC NIT. "UAB RA HAM
RAY" BUCY BC EGGS? PS ENTGI YA IOYIG.
UAB RA HAM RA SUN? — By Duane B. McGee



ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. (b) refrigerators
2. (a) Kroc
3. (b) noble gas
4. (d) US
5. (d) for measuring volume changes in chemical reactions involving gases.

☆☆☆

EXERCISES "WORD HUNT"

1. RISE 2. RAISE 3. ARISE 4. PARE 5. PEAR 6. PAIR 7. PIER 8. RAPE 9. REAP 10. RIPE 11. SEAR 12. SIRE 13. SPAR 14. SPARE 15. SPEAR 16. SPIRE 17. ASIRE

Prince Hassan: We should not attempt to abandon our own culture or history or faith, but understand that others also have a culture, a history and a faith

The following is the text of a speech made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Europe of Religions International Conference organised by the Vienna-based Institute for Human Sciences on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

Mr. President, Foreign Minister, Your Excellencies and Eminencies, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is said that there will be no peace in the world until there is peace between the faiths. In the Middle East, birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, there is for the first time in decades a real optimism about peace. The treaty between Jordan and Israel, which explicitly recognises the importance of inter-faith relations, is an important precedent for religious as well as cultural understanding between peoples long estranged by political conflict. Although it will be hard to transform the way they, or we, see each other, what is important for now is that governments are openly committed to working for change.

The outlook for Europe in the 1990s is mixed. The revival of political extremism and popular nationalism has threatened the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in European countries. If I may quote the Runnymede Trust, it estimates that in England, 70,000 incidents of harassment and violence based on race and religion take place every year. That is 200 incidents a day, or one every seven minutes. Although these figures are for all minorities, a significant proportion relate to Muslims. It is above all the isolation of Muslims in Europe, and the phenomenon of "Islamophobia," that I would like to address briefly here tonight.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Despite attempts to depict Islam as a uniquely intolerant creed, its success as a world religion — representing as it does over a billion Muslims — proves its ability to accommodate diversity.

Although Islam began in Arabia, its assimilative power united peoples across Eurasia, from China to the Atlantic Ocean. As it expanded, Islam adapted to local conditions. An Arab empire thus became a multi-ethnic order. The contribution of non-Muslims is well documented. Islamic civilisation flourished on the basis of cultural as well as religious pluralism, the roots of which go back to scripture. For the Holy Koran itself proclaims:

"O mankind, we have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honoured among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous." (49:13)

Perhaps Islam's most turbulent relationships have been with Europe. It was until recently a pattern of relationships of rivalry and hostility, but the influences have been reciprocal, and the relationship remains significant today.

In the early phase, Islam posed a mortal threat to Europeans. Muslims were seen as the enemy at the gates; yet little was known of them, except that their armies besieged the frontiers of Europe while their faith threatened the fabric of Christendom. The sense of threat is hardly surprising, given the rapid expansion of Muslim power, and the establishment of a Muslim presence in Europe — this bears witness to the earlier concept of the Islamic threat. This presence dates as far back as the 8th Century CE, and Muslim communities have existed in areas as diverse as Spain, southern Italy, Sicily, the Crimea, the Volga Valley, Poland, Finland and the Balkans.

The most recent expansion of European power into Muslim lands has also had consequences in this context. France in North Africa, Britain in Egypt and India, and the Netherlands in Indonesia, made millions subject to European colonial rule. The link between the European colonial powers and their dominions determined later migration routes to Europe.

But despite some misguided attempts to depict Europe's Muslims as exclusively recent economic migrants, Islam is hardly new, ladies and gentlemen, to the European scene.

I myself was meant to have been in Zagreb tonight. It is essential that as we bear witness to the conflict that is still being played out in the Balkans, only 200 miles from here, we pay particular heed to the atrocities that continue. I have visited my country's troops who serve as U.N. peacekeepers — troops not exclusively Muslim, but including Christians of many denominations. They have seen the destruction of Christian and Muslim holy sites, and despite the horrors of war in the Middle East, the tangible hatred that they have felt is inexplicable. It is a catastrophe of great magnitude, and cannot be allowed to continue. It is imperative, however, that humanitarian aid does not become a substitute for their human rights, especially the right to the security of life. The suffering of Bosnia has alarmed the Muslim World in particular; but as a member state of the U.N., its fate is not purely an Islamic but a European and a global issue. International consensus is not, as we know, easy to maintain in such a situation; but when we consider a Europe of the religions, or a world in which religion, as we believe here today, has a part to play at all, the failure to resolve this situation gives grounds only for the profoundest despair.

The Balkan war represents the final result of religious intolerance. While other areas of Europe have not succumbed to violence on that scale, the problems facing communal coexistence and multi-culturalism remain complex and forbidding everywhere.

Religious minorities continue to labour under medieval perceptions, ladies and gentlemen, in varied European societies, while they have sometimes been bent on protecting traditional modes at all costs, ignoring the realities. The roles of the extended family, males and females, arranged and inter-communal marriages, education and religious instruction — all of those day to day modes of life have been questioned. The children of immigrants have become disoriented; the conflict between their immediate cultural milieu and the broader society has set them apart from their peers. In the case of European Muslims, a

sense of alienation has grown with incidents such as the Rushdie affair, Desert Storm, and the tragedy of Bosnia.

However, we have to accept that there are hopeful signs. A new generation of Muslims is seeking integration into European communities. They are analysing for themselves what is culturally relevant and Islamically essential. Islam is a recognised religion in your brave country, Austria. European societies tend to be socially pluralist and politically democratic. European norms of behaviour do not preclude the integration of Muslims, or erode the basis of their faith.

Let it be clear, however, that the integration of Muslim communities can take place only on the basis of their acknowledgement of the prevailing rule of law. And Muslims almost without exception do accept and respect the existence of nation-states and their laws. They view themselves as subject to civil laws, and accept the authority of the state. For the very principles of Islam require a Muslim minority to obey a state in which it is resident, in the same way that a Muslim state expects non-Muslims to respect it and abide by its laws.

The Muslims of Europe are therefore not asking for special privileges, nor should they demand what is denied to others. They are merely asking for their religion to be recognised within the European context. Given the continuation of state financial assistance for Christian institutions in nominally secular countries, Muslims legitimately wonder whether European communities could not extend the same facilities to their institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Just as Muslims should not ask for special privileges, neither should they suffer discrimination. Discrimination and inter-communal violence can be combated in five key areas. First, the law. Second, the educational system. Third, the media; fourth, the work of religious bodies; and finally, political leadership. I would like now to briefly make some constructive proposals in each of these areas.

Firstly, Muslims themselves must use the protection of European laws to ensure their freedom of religious belief. For equality before the law is a cornerstone of the pluralist vision. Coop-

eration between national authorities and their Muslim communities is essential to the success of this enterprise. Democratic and legal procedures are flexible enough to accommodate basic Muslim demands. It is vital to outlaw religious discrimination such as Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, on the same grounds as racial or sexual discrimination are outlawed in these communities. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into the national laws of all European states would be a great step forward. Freedom of religion would then form an integral part of national laws.

"The fact that ideals such as tolerance, human rights and peace are highly valued in the abstract gives rise to a certain contradiction. While European political culture is in principle committed to equality, there exists a continuing institutionalised insensitivity to the needs and aspirations of minorities."

It is also worth considering the link between racial and religious intolerance and the question of immigration policy. The common assumption is that people from different cultures constitute a problem. In framing immigration policies, legislatures should be mindful that effective inter-faith and race relations are indivisible.

However, laws are part of a broader picture. The key to improving inter-faith rela-

tions in the long term lies less in legal reform than in transforming a political, and possibly social, culture which rejects the other. Studies such as the European Value Survey have found that throughout Europe, significant numbers find the practice of Islam or Judaism by neighbours more alarming than drug use or adultery. The fact that ideals such as tolerance, human rights and peace are highly valued in the abstract gives rise to a certain contradiction. While European political culture is in principle committed to equality, there exists a continuing institutionalised insensitivity to the needs and aspirations of minorities. It is this that must be tackled; for if Europeans are not challenged to be true to their principles, the spectre of Bosnia cannot be far from any of us.

Some commentators suggest that an ombudsman with specific responsibility for race and religious relations could play a valuable part here. By investigating complaints against central government, the police, national public bodies, the media, schools and local authorities, and by pressing for standards of good practice, such an institution could make a real difference to national political cultures.

But, ladies and gentlemen, if an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, then surely the second area I referred to, the educational system, is the most appropriate focus for our efforts. From the point of view of religious minorities, state education is not necessarily subversive of religion and traditional values. Initiatives to broaden national curricula, so that students grow up with knowledge of other religions, are to be welcomed in this context. This is surely in the common interest. For if we wish to prepare the coming generations for the future that they will share together, they will need to know how people in their own country and elsewhere are affected by the diversity of faiths.

The same argument applies to the third area, the media. Religious broadcasting in many parts of Europe has undergone significant change. From the basic transmission of Christian services, many broadcasters have widened their sphere of interest to address common spiritual questions in a creative and non-denominational manner. Occasionally, program-makers have tackled

the difficult issues faced by racial and religious minorities in a sympathetic, dramatic and effective way. More of this type of broadcasting will be needed if tolerance and co-existence are to be promoted. The print media can also play a significant role in giving European citizens information and perspectives appropriate to the requirements of our ever more inter-dependent world.

Religious bodies can also play a central role. I would like to give you some examples drawn from my own experience. For if understanding between the faiths can be developed in the Middle East, there is no reason why it cannot also flourish in Europe.

The first example is the ongoing Interfaith Dialogue that has developed in the United Kingdom under the patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and myself. Our purpose there was to work towards a deeper understanding of religious ethics, and to encourage cooperation among followers of the three monotheistic faiths. We do not shy away from studying the historical legacy of religious conflict, and its consequences for the present; we sought to combat stereotyping and to achieve a real dialogue on the basis of shared moral, ethical and spiritual values. These consultations sometimes give rise to special joint projects, addressing subjects like the environment, education, the family, business and banking ethics, and tribalism (as a euphemism for ethnic and sectarian violence) in modern society.

A charitable trust is to be established in the U.K., known as The Interfaith Foundation, to promote these objectives. The foundation seeks to educate the public by the study and dissemination of ethical principles indicated in the teachings of the three religions. It highlights such principles in the conduct of international business, and a Code of Business Ethics acceptable to Muslims, Christians and Jews alike has already been published.

I would also like to mention the Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies in Amman, Jordan. The Institute was established to help bridge the gap between faith communities in the Middle East. It encourages the study of Christian theology and affairs; sponsors research of Biblical literature related to

both Christianity and Judaism; promotes scholarly Muslim-Christian dialogue; and seeks deeper relationship between Islam and world Christianity in general and the Eastern Christian churches in particular.

All these bodies play their part in fostering better relations and understanding between the faiths. But the ultimate responsibility rests not with them, but with political leaders who create the backdrop against which intolerance is seen as justified or as abhorrent. They must therefore take the lead, in actions as well as rhetoric, and actively work to eliminate discrimination and violence against minorities.

I have tried tonight to outline a historical perspective on Europe's six million Muslim, to describe the problems that they have faced, and to suggest some solutions. The objective, we can all agree, is to safeguard the position of religious minorities in Europe, ensure their integration, and guarantee the supremacy of the rule of law. We need a shared moral imperative based on human, or humanitarian, values. We hope that they can be inclusive, not exclusive, of the participation of other believers. Whatever happens, every effort must be exerted to avert the emergence of a fortress Europe, in which Islamophobia is but one aspect of a broader and ultimately self-destructive comprehensive xenophobia.

In seeking peace between the faiths, and peace in the world, before the millennium of Christianity or the millennium in Jerusalem, we must acknowledge that religion is a universal fact that has taken many forms. Historical landmarks such as these will be empty unless we achieve a shared moral authority. This does not prevent anyone from asserting the uniqueness of their own religion. But we can only build upon common foundations. We must of course strive to find consensus between peoples and religions, while respecting their diversity. We should not attempt to abandon our own culture or history or faith; but understand that others also have a culture, a history and a faith. This, surely, in the heart of the matter. This is why we are here, and this is why our deliberations over the next few days are of such urgent importance. Mr. president, foreign minister, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

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RIHANI
ELEGANCE OF A MAN
DOW, JABAL AMMAN GARDENS ST.

Jordan is biggest buyer of Sri Lanka tea

Jazireh tame Jalil in 3rd place showdown

Homentmen relegated; Ahli continue unbeaten streak

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh Tuesday tamed Al Jalil in their 3rd place battle when they overcame the team from Irbid 71-55 to hold on to third place for the third straight year.

Although both teams missed the efforts of key players, Al Jazireh had the advantage throughout while their opponents seemed at a loss in the absence of their coach who resigned two days ago.

In the day's other match Al Watani scored a hard-fought 89-76 victory over Homentmen as the latter was officially relegated. Al Watani and Al Hussein have a crucial match on Dec. 12 that will decide who will accompany Homentmen to the second division.

Titleholders Al Ahli scored an easy 102-48 victory over Al Hussein in Irbid in the third match of the day.

Al Jazireh's ambitions for an advanced standing will have to rest with third place for now as they need to score a 17-point victory over Al Orthodoxy to take second place.

Al Jazireh had defeated Al Jalil 73-69 in the first round, therefore Al Jalil had to score a victory with

five points to clinch the third place which they last held in 1991, before losing it to Al Jazireh.

However that was not the case Tuesday, as Al Jazireh entered the match with their ambitious lineup only missing Naser Alawneh who was down with flu.

In the absence of key player Raed Jaber who watched the match from the bench in the first half, Al Jalil were led by Naser Bassam who was previously at Al Hussein with Alawneh.

Although scoring remained close at first, Al Jazireh took their first noticeable lead at 15-9 and continued to score by Husam Lutfi and Yousef Abu Baker to expand the gap to 25-11.

Two three pointers by Al Jalil still kept a 10-point lead for Al Jazireh at 29-19. Lutfi and Abu Baker continued to score, aided by Ma'an Odeh to end the first half 44-30.

Earlier, Al Watani and Homentmen played a match which was marred by substandard refereeing to which both teams' players repeatedly objected. This resulted in two technical fouls for Homentmen.

The defeat meant Homentmen was officially re-

legated after failing to score the minimum number of wins. Their only slim chance of avoiding relegation was in the event of defeating Al Watani by 26 points and Al Hussein by 14 points.

Al Watani had easily won their first round encounter 74-49. However that was not the case Tuesday when Homentmen played one of their best matches but lost both halves by a slim margin 49-40 and 40-36 as the match ended with a 13-point win for Al Watani.

Al Watani who still need to overcome Al Hussein by four points to avoid relegation.

Al Watani led 9-5 before Homentmen scored by Vicken Avakian and Al'a Abu Rahmeh to take an 11-9 lead. Both teams scored from free throws and three pointers as the match was tied at 20-20 in the 10th minute.

Al Watani then scored 10 consecutive points by Faris Dahabreh and Hani Al Taher to lead 30-20, but Homentmen did the same scoring by Vasken Chatmajian and Robert Chatmajian to take the lead at 31-30.

Al Watani then scored 4 three-pointers while their undermanned opponents

slowed down their pace as Al Watani ended the first half 49-40.

Al Watani expanded the gap by Taher before Sevan Sarkissian scored two consecutive three-pointers and added another two to reduce Al Watani's lead to 56-53.

Al Watani who badly needed to win as a first step towards securing their place in the division scored eight points to lead 64-53.

Homentmen's Chatmajian netted in a three-pointer. However, his team then failed to score for more than two minutes as Al Watani took advantage of many turnovers and forced their opponents to foul their fast breaks to take a commanding 70-58 lead.

Although the match had 11 minutes to go, Homentmen's coach who has failed to successfully guide the team through the past three seasons, seemed to give up

as Al Watani continued to score by Dahabreh ending the match with a 13-point win.

Al Watani who lost to Al Hussein 79-76 in the first round will now have to defeat the Irbid team with four points to avoid relegation.

In the other match titleholders Al Ahli scored a 102-48 win over Al Hussein who missed at least three key players because of injury including Hadi Al Sayes, Mustafa Al Kofahi, while Al Ahli's Ramez Hammoudeh and Naser Bushnaq also did not play. Al Ahli took a 31-9 lead before sealing the first half 58-21.

Most bench players were given a chance to play, including the younger lineup of Riyad Ayesh, Mohamad and Taimour Al Shammali and Zeid Alkhas as Al Ahli ended the match with a big win.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	8	8	—	888	439	16
Jazireh	8	6	2	685	586	14
Orthodoxy	7	6	1	665	410	13
Jalil	7	3	4	520	497	10
Watani	8	2	6	592	746	10
Hussein	8	2	6	471	728	10
Homentmen	8	—	8	398	807	8

Montana, his luck gone, falls prey to injury

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Joe Montana, whose tendency to get hurt was his only liability

in recent years, stood tall as seven starters on the Kansas City Chiefs went down with

injuries.

His luck lasted until he was caught from behind in the pocket and was tackled around the ankles in the Chiefs' 10-9 loss at Seattle Sunday.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer said Monday that Montana's injury was officially diagnosed as a sprained foot.

Montana, whose elbow injury at San Francisco cost him two years and ultimately led to his trade to Kansas

City, missed one game last year with a hurt thumb and four games with a hamstring injury.

He was knocked out of the American Football Conference Championship game at Buffalo with a concussion — an injury that led his family, particularly his father, to campaign for him to retire.

But Montana made it through 11 games this year with little more than nicks and bruises. Ironically, his chief protector on the offen-

sive line, left tackle John Alt, is reduced by back pains to walking around the Chiefs' practice field.

Montana was asked about it Friday, 48 hours before he was hurt while desperately trying to jump-start the offense.

"Luck," he said. "It's just the way it goes. Sometimes you're the one who gets hurt and sometimes you're not. Last year, I had two things that lingered for almost the whole year."

Savicevic back for Milan in Intercontinental Cup

TOKYO (AP) — AC Milan will have Yugoslav midfielder Dejan Savicevic back for the Intercontinental Cup match with Velez Sarsfield of Argentina in Tokyo Thursday.

"Savicevic can play for 90 minutes without any problem," coach Fabio Capello said on the eve of a match that could give Milan a fourth world club title to avenge their narrow defeat to Sao Paulo last year.

The 28-year-old from Montenegro, sidelined for six weeks with torn thigh muscle, will partner Daniele Massaro up front.

The Argentine side, who beat Sao Paulo on penalties for their first Copa Libertadores, are expected to play their usual defensive game.

Forwards Omar Andres Asad and Jose Oscar Flores struck 10 out of the 15 goals their team scored in the South American club championships, although Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert can be just as dangerous when he moves up to take free-kicks and pen-

alties. "We have turned up perfectly," said Velez coach Carlos Bianchi.

Capello, who had eight players in the United States, blamed World Cup handover for his team's poor start to the season.

His job may be on the line if they do not beat Sao Paulo in the final of the Intercontinental Cup on Wednesday.

Milan have slumped alarmingly from the summit they reached in May when they beat Barcelona 4-0 with some imperious football for their fifth European Champions' Cup.

They are 11th in the Italian championship with only three wins in 10 matches and after scoring only seven goals they traded Dutch star Ruud Gullit for Sampdoria's Alessandro Melli, although the move has yet to pay off.

The AC Milan coach warned that Velez might be "very tactical and aggressive."

"We cannot belittle the

strength of a team which the Copa Libertadores Capello added.

The Velez coach has aside questions about the "How can I reveal the force the match?" said.

Milan have played six times at the National Stadium in Tokyo in 1989, 1990 last year when they reached the Olympic final, the French club, who had been Milan in the 1993 European Cup final, was banned from being embroiled in a rigging scandal.

AC Milan: Sebastiano Rossini, Mauro Tassotti, J. Baresi, Alessandro Costantini, Paolo Maldini, Marco Donadoni, Marcel Desailly, Zvonimir Boban, Dennis Bergkamp, Dejan Savicevic, Daniele Massaro.

Velez Sarsfield: (probable) Jose Chilavert, Flavio Zamboni, Raul Cardozo, Victor Sotomayor, Roberto Tringoli, Basilio, Roberto Piqueri, Marcelo Gomez, Cristian Bascadas, Omar Jose Flores.

British champ to make Dubai Rally debut

DUBAI (AP) — British women's rally champion Stephanie Simmonite hopes to make a mark in the Dubai International Rally, which has been dominated by Arab drivers.

"I have been around the terrain and although it looks ominous, I hope to come off nice and clean," said the 25-year-old Simmonite, who won the British women's title on her first attempt last month.

The 1994 edition of the two-day rally, which covers 667 kilometres (413 miles) across desert terrain, begins here Thursday.

This is the fifth and final round of the championships. The earlier four were held in Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon and Oman.

Germany's Karl Heinz Lerch, the current off-road national champion, heads the European assault in a Ford, which is among 46 entries from 12 countries.

The Arab grip on the Dubai title looks strong — broken only once in recent years by former world champion Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden.

In Qatar, Dubai's Victory Rally Team made a flying start to the regional series when Sheikh Suhail Bin Khalifa Al-Maktoum won a superb contest against Dubai's Mohammed Bin Sulayem.

Sulayem has since fought back to clinch his seventh Middle East title and now is attempting to win his home event for the eighth time in 10 years.


Barkley's injury is healing

PHOENIX (AP) — As usual, Charles Barkley is things his way.

Complaining of pain in his strained abdominal muscle, Barkley skipped Monday's team flight to Milwaukee to begin a seven-game, 13-day road trip for the Phoenix Suns.




But after a battery of tests including an MRI, reveals that the muscle is healing, he caught a flight to join his teammates.

Team spokeswoman Julie Fie said Barkley probably would get into his second National Basketball Association game of the season, the 13th for the Suns.



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German runner banned for steroids

BONN (R) — German international distance runner Martin Bremer has been banned for four years for taking testosterone, the German Athletics Federation (DLV) said Wednesday.

Bremer, who finished third in the 5,000 metres at last September's World Cup in London, admitted taking testosterone but said he had got it from his doctor because of a bad case of hepatitis and shingles had stopped the production of natural hormones in his body.

Although German athletics officials said they did not believe Bremer had taken the drug to enhance his performance, he is now banned from all competition for four years.

"The DLV has suspended the athlete with immediate effect from all competitions and from the squad after he admitted to taking testosterone," the federation said in a statement. "We have ordered the analysis of the B test."

Bremer, a clubmate of Olympic 5,000 metres champion Dieter Baumann, was banned after high levels of the testosterone were found in his body at a road race in Fribourg, Switzerland.

The case is another blow to German athletics just as it seemed to be recovering from the much-publicised scandal involving former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe.

Tradition favours Zamalek in African Champions' Cup

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Zamalek go into the first leg of the African Champions' Cup final at the mammoth Nasser Stadium in Cairo this weekend seeking a record fourth title.

Opposing them are another famous North African team, Esperance of Tunisia, who reached the continental club showpiece by scoring 21 goals in an unbeaten eight-match run.

Defending champions Zamalek have been less dominant, eliminating Gor Mahia of Kenya, Sogara of Gabon and Nkana of Zambia after fierce struggles.

But tradition favours the Egyptians, whose three successes have been matched

only by Canon Yaounde of Cameroon and Hafia of Guinea.

And if Zamalek triumph, they will join TP Englebert of Zaire as the sole clubs to successfully defend a trophy named after Sekou Toure, the late ruler of Guinea.

Englebert succeeded in the late 1960s when the competition was in its infancy, and the absence of many leading nations made progress much easier.

Besides a liberal sprinkling of players who have represented Egypt, Zamalek boast Ghanaians Ahmed Oscar and Joe Okyere and Nigerian Akin Akinshinde in their squad.

Oscar converted into

Islam and changed his name from Laud when he quit Dawu Young Stars in Ghana to join a club who have monopolised Egyptian football with Al Ahly for decades.

Zambian international Kenneth Malitoli, who recently captained his country in the absence of Kalusha Bwalya, has also proved a menace to defenders, scoring four times.

After comfortable triumphs over moderate opponents from Burkina Faso and Mali, Esperance served notice of their intentions by overwhelming Nigerians Iwuanyanwu Nationale 3-0.

In the semi-finals, the

leading Tunisian club proved equally impressive, defeating Mouloudia Oran 3-1 and drawing 2-2 in Algeria after leading by two goals.

African Cup fixture

Scorers

Zamalek

Ahmad Ramzy, Khaled Al-Ghandour, Ahmad Oscar, Mohammad Ismail

Esperance

Ayadi Hamrouni 6, Kenneth Malitoli 4, Hassan Gabai, Ben Neji 3, Moez Chetoui, Mohammad Mahjoubi, Gibby Mbsaela, Thabet Tarak, Noureddine Bousina 1.

Champions' Cup records

Zamalek

1979 quarter-finals, 1984 winners, 1985 semi-finals, 1986 winners, 1987 quarter-finals, 1989 first round, 1993 winners.

Esperance

1971 second round, 1986 quarter-finals, 1989 second round, 1990 quarter-finals, 1992 first round.

Previous winners

1964 Oryx Douala (Cameroon), 1965 No competition, 1966 Stade Abidjan (Ivory Coast), 1967-1968 TP Englebert (Zaire), 1969 Ismailia (Egypt), 1970

Asante Kotoko (Ghana), 1971 Canon Yaounde (Cameroon), 1972 Hafia (Guinea), 1973 Vita (Zaire), 1974 CARA (Congo), 1975 Hafia, 1976 Mouloudia Alger (Algeria), 1977 Hafia, 1978 Caudn, 1979 Union Douala (Cameroon), 1980 Canon, 1981 JET (Algeria), 1982 Al-Ahly (Egypt), 1983 Kotoko, 1984 Zamalek, 1985 Royal Armed Forces (Morocco), 1986 Zamalek, 1987 Al-Ahly, 1988 Entente Setif (Algeria), 1989 Raja Casablanca (Morocco), 1990 JS Kabylie (Algeria), 1991 Club Africain (Tunisia), 1992 Wydad Casablanca (Morocco), 1993 Zamalek.

Kings beat Heat for best start in 12 years

MIAMI (R) — The Sacramento Kings aren't really used to this.

The Kings edged the Miami Heat 94-89 Tuesday for their best start in 12 years and their first win in Miami in seven games.

"I didn't shoot well at all, but the team came through," said Mitch Richmond, a native of nearby Fort Lauderdale who was just 4-of-14 from the field. "I love this gym. This is home, and this is the first time I've ever won here."

A 3-pointer by Brad Lohaus cut the deficit to 92-89 with 21 seconds to play,

but rookie Michael Smith scored on a breakaway to seal the win.

"My heart went to my knees when they got that three," Kings coach Garry St. Jean said. "We're heading for the plane before the refs change it (the win)."

Walt Williams scored 20 points and rookie Brian Grant added 16 for the Kings, who won at Miami for the first time since December 7, 1988.

The Kings (6-5) have beaten last-season playoff teams in all of their wins this season and stand above .500 this late in the season for the

first time since they began the 1982-83 campaign at 8-3.

Bimbo Coles scored 19 points and Kevin Willis added 17 for the Heat (3-8).

At Golden State, the Los Angeles Clippers lost their 13th consecutive game as Ricky Pierce's 3-point play with 42 seconds left in overtime gave the Warriors a 127-124 victory.

The Clippers' Pooh Richardson, who forced overtime with a 15-footer with 4.3 seconds left in regulation, missed a 3-pointer at the OT buzzer.

The Clippers are approaching an NBA record for season-opening futility. Three teams began by losing their first 15 games and the expansion Miami Heat lost their first 17 in 1988 before beating the Clippers.

Latrell Sprewell scored 31 points to lead the Warriors, who blew a 21-point first-quarter lead.

In Dallas, Jim Jackson scored 26 points as the Mavericks took a sloppy 84-83 win over Minnesota Timberwolves.

With 7.6 seconds left and Dallas up by a point, Jackson missed two free throws. Minnesota rookie Donyell Marshall grabbed the rebound, dribbled to the front court and missed badly on a 40-footer to end the game.

"I could see the confusion in Donyell's face and I was glad that he had it more than anything else," said Jackson. "He danced with it a little bit, wasted some time and threw up a long shot."

The teams combined for 16 turnovers and just 11 field goals in the fourth quarter.

At new Jersey, Cedric Ceballos scored 34 points and Sedale Threatt had seven points during a 13-1 run to open the second overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Nets 129-120.

Derrick Coleman had 24 rebounds and Kenny Anderson had 24 points and dished out 16 assists for the Nets.

In Milwaukee, rookie Trevor Ruffin sank three 3-pointers during a 26-10 second-quarter run as the Phoenix Suns raced past the Bucks 123-106 for their fourth straight triumph.

Dan Majerle scored 23 points, Ruffin had 20 and rookie Wesley Person added 19 for the Suns, who opened a seven game road trip with their eighth victory in their last nine games.

Vin Baker scored 23 points and Todd Day added 20 for Milwaukee, which has lost four straight games.

Suns all-star Charles Barkley scored five points after a one-game absence, sitting out the entire fourth quarter.

In Atlanta, Hersey Hawkins scored 22 points as the Charlotte Hornets held off the Hawks for a 90-85 victory.

Alonzo Mourning added 18 points and Dell Curry had 17.

Charlotte led by as many as 16 points in the second period but had to hang on as the Heat got as close as 86-85 with 15 seconds.

At Washington, Patrick Ewing's jump shot with two minutes remaining sparked a 6-0 run, breaking open a three-point game as the New York Knicks defeated the Bulls 99-91.

Ewing finished with 20 points and a season-high 15 rebounds.

Washington was led by Chris Webber's 21 points, his most as a member of the Bulls. Webber also grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 27 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Rockets cruised to a 96-81 win over the Denver Nuggets to stop a three-game losing streak.

In Portland, Karl Malone had 30 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and the Utah Jazz used a 15-4 run to open the fourth quarter to take control of the game and beat the Trail Blazers 105-94. The Jazz have won five straight.

Japan will gain most if Chinese athletes disqualified

BEIJING (R) — Japan has the most to gain if Chinese swimmers at last month's Asian Games are banned for drugs use, the Beijing youth daily said Wednesday.

"If the Asian Games' successes of Lu Bin, Xiong Guoming and others come into trouble, more than 10 swimming gold medals would fall into the hands of the Japanese," the newspaper said.

Meanwhile China's Olympic Committee confirmed Wednesday it had been formally notified that 11 Chinese athletes had been tested positive during the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Lu and Xiong were among 11 Chinese athletes named in the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun Wednesday as testing positive at the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

The two swimmers won four gold medals each. The newspaper also named male swimmers Hu Bin and Xue Wei, who won a gold medal apiece.

The Beijing youth daily said world women's 400 metres freestyle champion Yang Aihua, banned by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) for two years after testing positive for excessive levels of testosterone, had appealed to FINA,

arguing that three tests by Japanese officials on her urine sample had produced five different results.

The Chinese sports daily, quoting sources at the Chinese Olympic Committee, said an official of China's Asian Games delegation had returned to Tokyo to review analyses of urine samples of the 11 Chinese athletes.

"The Chinese Olympic Committee was shocked and felt sorry and has instructed the associations concerned to investigate the matter immediately," the newspaper said.

Chinese officials said they would pursue all appeals to ensure China's athletes were accorded due process but that China would accept the council's findings.

"According to the OCA rules, all the parties involved have no right to make any revelation before the OCA makes an official decision," the paper quoted one source as saying.

The athletes were identified by the newspaper as:

Swimming

Men

Lu Bin — gold in 50 metres freestyle

Xiong Guoming — four golds in 200 metres freestyle

Women

Lu Bin — four golds in 50 metres freestyle, 200 metres freestyle, 200 metres individual medley, 4X100 metres relay and a silver in 4X100 metres relay

Xue Wei — gold in 200 metres butterfly

Fu Yong — bronze in 400 metres individual medley

Athletics

Han Qing — gold in women's 400 metres hurdles

Canoeing

Zhang Lei — two golds in men's 500 and 1,000 metres Canadian singles

Qin Suoren — silver in men's 1,000 metres Canadian pairs

Cycling

Wang Yan — gold in women's sprint

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HOSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A J 8 5 ♣A 7 5 ♠8 3 ♠J 10 8 3

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A Q 8 7 3 ♣J 10 4 ♠Q 7 ♠J 6

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K ♠6 4 3 2 ♠K J 7 6 2 ♠Q 8 5

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A ♠6 ♠A Q 10 5 4 ♠K J 7 8 5 2

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A 8 5 2 ♠A 10 4 ♠J 8 3 ♠J 7 6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K J 7 6 5 3 ♠K 10 7 8 5 3 ♠K ♠Void

As dealer, what action do you take?

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27	28	29	30	31		

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Jordan to brief donors, seek to advance debt relief efforts

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has called a meeting with a consultative group of donor countries to familiarise them with the Kingdom's budgetary plans and sound out prospects for assistance during fiscal 1995, officials and diplomats said Wednesday.

They said the meeting, which was set for Sunday, will not take place on Monday so that Finance Minister Sami Gammo can participate, was expected to review Jordan's economic performance for 1994 and the Kingdom's targets for 1995 as outlined in the fiscal budget presented to Parliament.

The JD 1.674 billion budget with a deficit of JD 50 million is expected to be debated on the floor of the Lower House of Parliament soon. The budget focuses more on allocating funds for much-needed development projects seen essential to meet the needs of some of the outlying areas and make the investment climate in Jordan more attractive to foreign and local investors.

The meeting, called by Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib, would also aim at advancing Jordan's efforts to alleviate its foreign debt burden through write-off and rescheduling.

Most of the European countries, the United States and Japan are members of the consultative group which works under the umbrella of the World Bank. Ambassadors of the countries and the delegate of the European Commission in Amman would attend the meeting.

No details of specific targets of assistance that Jordan seeks from the donor community were available. The consultative group, meeting in Paris under the aegis of the World Bank early this year, pledged \$380 million to help the Kingdom to address its deficit in the balance of payments in 1994. Part of the amount was expected to cover Jordan's needs for 1995.

The actual shortfall for the year 1994 in Jordan's balance of payments is expected to be around JD 140 million. It was also not immediately known whether any of the donors

who pledged the \$380 million for this year had not fulfilled their commitment.

The Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i reported that Jordan would also be launching an effort to reschedule \$350 million of its foreign debts during the meeting. No official or diplomat would confirm the amount mentioned in the report, but said it was only expected that Jordan would be addressing all the issues that are involved in its efforts to correct its economy and reduce its debt burden.

"We expect to hear the details of Jordan's economic performance and budgetary problems at Monday's meeting," said a senior Western diplomat, noting that the findings of a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessment of the Kingdom's economy would also be reviewed at the gathering.

"The meeting should be very interesting," noted a European economic counsellor. "It would offer an insight into Jordan's plans and expectations with the advent of peace."

Most diplomats that the Jordan Times talked to said

their governments were sympathetic to Jordan's needs, particularly that the Kingdom took the brave decision to sign a peace treaty with Israel — as one of them put it. But none of them could predict with any degree of accuracy the amount of aid that Jordan could expect from their countries.

"In general, Europe considers Jordan as a special case and looks favourably upon any Jordanian request for help despite the international economic adjustments and pressing need for aid to be channelled elsewhere," said another European diplomat.

However, added the diplomat, "there may not be a uniform approach in response to the request. Every country has its own priority and methods of extending help."

According to a senior World Bank official, Jordan has outperformed some of the objectives set in the economic restructuring programme and it was a safe expectation that the Kingdom might not need external assistance to help its balance of payments by the year 1997.

Chechens in Jordan rally behind Dudayev

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Chechen community in Jordan issued a statement Wednesday in support of Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev, appealing to His Majesty King Hussein and the international community to uphold the freedom and independence of the Chechen Republic in the face of "Russian aggression."

According to the official spokesman and head of Chechen-Ichkeriya republic information bureau in Jordan and the Middle East, Farouk Tobulat, about 300 members of the Chechen community representing various tribes assembled Tuesday evening to discuss the current situation.

"The Chechen community in Jordan is united in its support for Dudayev and are opposed to Russian threats. We have issued a statement calling for widespread support Chechen sovereignty," Mr. Tobulat told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

He said that Tuesday's meeting proved that "in-simulations" of divisions and internal disputes within the Jordanian Chechen community,

one of the largest outside the republic numbering around 80,000, were false.

"We are all in agreement to stand behind Dudayev, who has become the symbol of Chechnya, and the independent republic," added Mr. Tobulat.

The statement, signed by about 10 leaders of the community, said: "Jordanian Chechens, their friends and people who believe in freedom, rights and self-determination, have followed closely the flagrant Russian intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Chechnya... and (their) support and solidarity of the Chechen people and the republic is in response to the current tragic events... and condemn the aggression of opposition groups supported by the Russians."

The statement, drawn up by the Committee of Jordanian Chechens and Friends which was established in 1989, called upon those who believe in the right of all people to freedom to support the independent Chechen republic and that "this committee appeals to King Hussein, the Jordanian Parliament and government, the United Na-

tions, governments and public institutions worldwide... to pressurise Russia to cease its aggression and to retract its ultimatum immediately."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued an ultimatum on Tuesday, giving the break-away republic 48 hours to submit to Russian constitutional rule to avoid the imposition of the state of emergency.

According to news agency dispatches, President Dudayev was quoted as saying Wednesday that he would start negotiations with the Russian authorities "as soon as it (Moscow) proposes."

Opposition to Mr. Dudayev led by Omar Avturkhanov and openly supported by Russia with money, arms and military specialists, wants Chechnya to rejoin the Russian Federation.

In the meantime reports say that the capital Grozny, almost totally deserted by soldiers, is now being flooded by thousands of volunteers to defend it against a feared attack from Moscow at dawn today (Thursday).

Chechnya, a Muslim republic which seceded from Russian control in 1991, is

the only one of 89 regions and republics to hold out against Russia.

Chechnya is geographically essential to Russia: it is agriculturally rich and has sufficient water resources to satisfy energy demands of the whole of Russia, Mr. Tobulat said. More importantly, it is an oil producing and refining centre.

There are approximately one million Chechens living throughout the Russian Federation, many of whom, according to reports, form a powerful Chechen mafia.

Mr. Tobulat said that Mr. Dudayev had in recent days threatened to call upon "Chechen secret elements in Russia" to help him by "performing operations." He said that "these elements" are Chechens and all Caucasians remember Stalin's ethnic deportations begun in 1944 for alleged collaboration with the Germans during World War II, he said.

The statement issued by the Committee of Jordanian Chechens and Friends said: "We appeal to the world to prevent a recurrence of the massacres in Bosnia-Herzegovina."



FORCED EVICTION: Police move in to evict a row of crumbling Victorian houses in an anti-motorway camp of demonstrators staged attempt to stop one of the final stages of the M11 motorway link road (AFP photo)

Jordan seeking \$25b from U.S. in 10 years

(Continued from page 1)

mat said: "We have a general sense of what Jordan's primary concerns are."

According to the authoritative Washington-based Defence News weekly, U.S. government officials have begun putting together an aid package to make good on President Clinton's promise to assist Jordan's military.

Options have been drafted in the Department of Defence that would provide for a long-term military aid package ranging from \$250 million to \$2.5 billion, according to American officials quoted by Defence News. The package is expected to be submitted to the U.S. Congress early next year.

The administration is reviewing several options, including requesting a special supplemental bill for the 1995 budget to cover up to \$1 billion in military aid for Jordan or waiting until 1996 to incorporate the Jordanian programme into the 1996 foreign aid budget, said the Defence News report.

Jordan, which has the longest border with Israel, has been working since the Gulf war on a major plan to turn its 98,000-man armed forces into a modern, well-trained and well-equipped force.

"We need a military that is well-trained and well-equipped to ensure security and defend our borders from any external threats," said a senior official. "We cannot let our guard down just because we made peace with Israel."

Besides barring infiltrations by extremists opposed to the peace accord, the military also has to be prepared for possible unrest and threats in and from the West Bank, Syria, Iraq and Israel itself.

"Jordan's main priority now is to defend its borders," said Field Marshal (Ret.) Fathi Abu Taleb, the army's former chief of staff, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"There has to be a reorganisation of the Jordanian armed forces as soon as possible," said Field Marshal Abu Taleb, who retired two years ago after serving 43 years in the army.

This reorganisation includes reducing the number of personnel needed in some support units and quickly working to transform one of the army's two armoured divisions into a light infantry unit capable of moving quickly and effectively to deter aggression.

The military, which has been on a tight budget for the last six years, has not made major weapon purchases since the mid-1980s. Two major deals for fighter jets, British Tornados and French Mirage 2000s, have had to be cancelled due to limited resources.

Washington, which punished Jordan for its stand in the Gulf war by halting economic and military aid, resumed military assistance, including joint exercises and training programmes last year. The United States has also released to Jordan support equipment, including fatigues and transport vehicles.

Although the country's economic and security needs are great, both Jordanian and American officials have indicated that it may be difficult for the Kingdom to get such a package with the constraints on the U.S. economy and especially with the new Republican-led Congress, some of whose leaders may not be too keen to finance the Middle East peace process.

"We may be able to get a smaller number of the requested F-16 fighter planes but we may be overly optimistic if we think we can get the whole package," said the senior official. But Jordan, he said, still expects to get a great deal of weaponry and support equipment from excess defence equipment from U.S. arsenals.

on workers and goods crossing the borders that have been imposed because of attacks on Israelis.

World Bank officials estimate that 20,000 Palestinians now cross the border daily to work in Israel, compared with 70,000 last year. Over half Gaza's workforce is out of work.

PLO: Israel must quit W. Bank before vote

(Continued from page 1)

said Major Elise Shazar, spokeswoman of the army's civil administration arm. A legislator close to Mr. Rabin on Wednesday proposed postponing an Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian towns in the West Bank, but uprooting some Jewish settlements ahead of schedule.

The trial balloon was floated by Ori Orr, chairman of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, just days before Israel and the Palestinians were to begin negotiations on troop redeployment and Palestinian general elections.

But a spokesman for Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat rejected the idea as a violation of the autonomy accord. "Dismantling small settlements is no substitute for troop redeployment,"

Donors give \$125 to PNA

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The money comes on top of a \$58 million fund signed over to Mr. Arafat by the World Bank on Tuesday for reconstruction.

Donors here also appealed to Israel to help the Palestinians by easing restrictions

on workers and goods crossing the borders that have been imposed because of attacks on Israelis.

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Berlin's famed Hotel Adlon being rebuilt

BERLIN (AFP) — The Hotel Adlon, a legendary symbol of pre-war Berlin, started to come back to Tuesday as ground broken for the new Adlon by the presence of Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen. The hotel was destroyed by a fire immediately after the fall of Nazism in 1945, and the hotel model will receive its first guests in 1997 in its new form.

It is being built by German hotel group Pinski AG, which plans to invest 425 million marks (\$283 million) in it, and is in the old site on the famous Pariser Platz, the site of old Berlin at the end of Unter den Linden.

Berlin sees Christo wrap-up as big draw

BERLIN (R) — Berlin loves American "pope" artist Christo's plan to wrap the German capital's historic Reichstag in white. The will be such a draw that public buildings may have to be turned into hotels to expect at least three million visitors, city planning Senator Volker Haubert said at a news conference.

"If there aren't enough hotel rooms, we can open schools and sports halls for accommodation," said Bulgarian-born artist, whose full name is Christo Javacheff, plans to wrap Berlin's parliament building from June 17 to July 6 next year using 75,000 square metres (90,000 sq yards) of material. He and his wife are reporters the \$7 million for the massive project would be paid out of their own pocket.

German Parliament President Rita Süssmuth said a project, entitled "Christo wraps Reichstag," would move more than just an art achievement. Built 100 years ago under Otto von Bismarck, the massive Reichstag, being restored by British architect Norman Foster, housed parliament from 1894 until 1990 when it was gutted in a fire.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli soldiers armed with phones to call home

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Young conscripts to the Israeli army who find it tough leaving their families are increasingly carrying portable telephones. Growing numbers of the teenagers have been turning up with the machines to stay in touch with anxious parents worried their offspring might have been caught in the latest extremist attack. Officers at first turned a blind eye, but as more and more telephones were brought in they appeared to the chief of staff, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported Wednesday. However, the military top brass has yet to take a decision, the daily said. "Until now we were used to seeing soldiers armed with guns or pistols, but not telephones," one senior officer admitted to the Yediot.

U.N. troops to leave Kismayu in December

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. Indian troops will withdraw in December from the southern Somali port of Kismayu, spokesman Zubair Chatha said Wednesday. The 1,000 Indian troops will return home aboard ships chartered by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) which will dock at the port. Major Chatha said. He refused to give a precise date for their departure for security reasons, but predicted it would be orderly. Other sources said the withdrawal would take place by the end of the week. Representatives of the international charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) who quit Kismayu on Nov. 23 after one of their workers was briefly kidnapped, predicted that rival clans would probably fight for the city's port and airport once the Indians left. The pullout of the Indian troops from Kismayu is part of a wholesale withdrawal of 15,000 U.N. troops from Somalia to be completed by March 31.

Replacement judge named in Geagea trial

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government on Wednesday named a judge to replace an ill colleague on the country's highest court, allowing the trial of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea in two murder cases to resume. A government decree said Hussein Al Zein replaced Wajih Al Awiye on the five-man judicial council handling both cases. The 42-year-old Geagea is the first militia chief of the 1975-90 civil war to face trial. Head of the once-powerful Christian Lebanese Forces militia, Mr. Geagea faces possible death sentences for a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers north of Beirut and the 1990 murder of Christian rival Dani Chamoun and his family. Chief Judge Philip Khairallah adjourned last Friday's session in the bombing case shortly after it began, saying Mr. Alawiye was ill, could not bear the stress of the long hours at the trial and would be replaced. Mr. Khairallah has yet to set a date for continuing the trial in the church blast case but sessions of the Chamoun case resume on Friday.

U.N. envoys visit flood-stricken Iranian area

TEHRAN (AFP) — Several U.N. envoys arrived in southwestern Iran on Wednesday to assess widespread damage caused by massive floods in the region, the official Islamic Republic News Agency IRNA said. Officials from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) were among those who arrived in the city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan province. Massive floods struck 54 cities and towns as well as 700 villages in eight Iranian provinces in the past few days, killing 13 people.

Tom Jones big hit in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Tom Jones kicked off a Gulf tour with a sell-out concert in Abu Dhabi, his first performance in the region, Tuesday night. More than 3,500 fans, some of them who were not even born when the Welsh singer began his career in the early 60s, turned out for the two-hour beachfront show. Jones, backed by an 11-piece British band, belted out his classic like "Delilah," "Green, Green Grass of Home" and "Thunderball" as well as some of his newer hits. True to form the 50-some star gyrated energetically throughout the show, with ecstatic women fans throwing panties onto the stage. He was scheduled to play in Dubai Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Israeli gay wins landmark appeal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's supreme court issued a landmark ruling Wednesday that the state airline El Al must grant homosexual employees the same rights as heterosexuals. The court upheld an appeal by El Al steward Yonatan Danielowitz, who fought a six-year legal battle against the company. He demanded that his live-in male lover of 15 years be given two free tickets each year in line with the wives of married staff. Lawyers said the ruling would set a precedent for numerous other cases in which Israeli, homosexuals are demanding equal rights. Adir Steiner, who lived with a soldier killed on active service, told Israel Radio on Wednesday that he would press ahead with his demands to obtain all the "the benefits accorded to the soldiers' widows."

Fewer AIDS cases reported in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of new carriers of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) fell in Israel to 135 over the first 11 months of 1994, compared with 174 for 1993, the health ministry said Wednesday. That pushed the total number of carriers identified to 1,226, although the ministry admitted the real figure was likely to be between 2,000 and 2,500. The figures, released on the eve of World AIDS Day, showed that 307 Israelis had developed full-blown AIDS, all but 30 of them women. About 70 are still alive and 16 have left the country. The rest are dead.

Mossad spymaster distrusts Israeli MPs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The chief of the Mossad intelligence agency has refused to appear before parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee for nine years because of a fear of leaks, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Parliament spokeswoman Sarah Yitzhaki-Kaplan told AFP the Mossad head refuses to speak to the powerful cross-party committee of 25 members of parliament (MPs). However, he does appear before the three-man intelligence affairs sub-committee, she said. The Haaretz newspaper said the last Mossad chief to talk to the full committee was Nahum Aumoni who in 1985 won the backing of then Prime Minister Shimon Peres to stop appearances after press leaks.